

One Baptist Death

Tornado Hits Baptist Homes, Churches, Businesses

By Don McGregor

The tornado spitting death and destruction that plowed through areas of Pike and Lincoln counties in Mississippi shortly after 8 a.m. Jan. 10 left schools, homes, businesses, and churches in ruins.

There were eight fatalities, but only one, Herbert Savell, was a Baptist. Two of his sons are Mississippi pastors, and one is a pastor in North Carolina.

His Mississippi pastor sons are Carl at Woodville Heights Church in Jackson and Carmon at Summerville Church in Jones Association. The

North Carolina pastor is Harold Savell at Biltmore Baptist Church, Asheville.

Though three schools were destroyed or heavily damaged after school had begun, no children were killed in them. A few minutes warning had enabled school authorities to get into tornado drills that spared their lives. There were some injuries, however.

Pastor J. B. Fowler, Jr., of First Baptist Church, McComb, Miss., was visiting a member of his church in the nearby hospital when he looked out of the third floor window and saw the tornado approaching.

The interior of the auditorium of West McComb Church shows the effects of the tornado that struck the city last week. The building was rendered useless as only the walls were left standing. Dr. Wayne Sterling is the pastor.

Dr. and Wyatt Hunter inspect the damage done to their home in McComb. Dr. Hunter is pastor emeritus of First Church.

Share His Love Now

By Carey Cox, Executive Secretary

is the slogan this year for "Make Your Will Month." Annually in Southern Baptist life and calendar JANUARY is designated as "Make Your Will Month." The preparation of one's will is recognized as one of the most important documents produced during your lifetime.

Multitudes of Christians are concerned with the support they give to the Lord's work during their lifetime and would like for at least a part of their estate to be designated for some area of the Lord's work in their will. This is a dimension of Christian stewardship which continues to give strength in kingdom building after one has gone on to be with the Lord. Any area of Baptist work can be designated through a specific bequest in a will.

If a person desires he may name the Cooperative Program as beneficiary and thereby support all of the work as promoted by Mississippi Baptists.

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation is the agency of your Convention designed and prepared to assist you in this area of eternal stewardship. Assistance without charge is available to all who desire to have wills prepared whereby a part of the estate is designated for some area of the Lord's work. The Foundation at times works through attorneys out in the state and we have a legal firm on a retainer basis to perform all legal services.

Share His Love Now
and Until...



Will Month

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ter, Carl Haskins, is a deacon in First Baptist Church and chairman of the building committee. Dubbs Traylor, the manager of a destroyed drug store, is a Sunday School teacher there.

The pastor emeritus, Dr. Wyatt Hunter, and his wife were in their home in the path of the tornado and it was too small, Rev. Williams indicated. Plans are to seek to meet in a school auditorium until the church building is rebuilt.

The Fellowship Baptist Church northeast of Summit suffered roof damage to the church building and to

the parsonage. Services were held in the church building on Sunday, however. Rev. Don Ricks, a New Orleans Seminary student, is the pastor.

North McComb Baptist Church lost much of its roof and thus the heavy rains that followed the tornado did a great deal of damage to furnishings including the pews and organ. Pastor Joe H. Ratcliff said, however, that he thought these items could be salvaged if they could be refinished.

The pastor's home had roof and window damage as well as furnishings getting wet, but it was still livable.

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The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 1975

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Rankin Leads Sunday School Gain

Rankin Association had the largest gain in Sunday School enrollment in Mississippi during the 1973-74 church year with 942, according to figures taken from church letters.

DeSoto Association was close behind with 939.

The entire state enjoyed a gain of 3,122, Rev. Bryant Cummings, director of the Sunday School Department for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, indicated the church letters revealed. The total enrollment for the state during the year was 320,363.

A breakdown on gains and losses by associations is on Page 2.

Six Named Managers In Book Store Reorganization

NASHVILLE (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board have elected six board employees as managers of the recently organized Baptist Book Store regions, according to William S. Graham, director of the board's book store division.

Elected to serve as regional managers are Al Crawford, Southern stores; Jimmy D. Edwards, East Central stores; Robert Mendenhall, Western stores; Miss Fran McCroskey, Northeastern stores; Jay O. Turner, Southeastern stores; and Paul Webb, Southwestern stores.

The book store division's four departments, in existence since its formation in 1962, have been reorganized into six regions to take advantage of the bulk-mail centers being operated by the U. S. Post Office.

"Since all packages mailed go

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District Music Festivals To Be Held This Month

Fifteen district piano and organ festivals, sponsored by the Church Music Department, will be held in various locations on Thursday night, Friday night and Saturday morning, Jan. 30, 31, and Feb. 1. These festivals are planned to involve and encourage young people from the first grade through high school in the field of church music. More than 650 participated in similar festivals last year.

Students may enter any one of four different categories relating to hymn playing and are adjudicated by pairs of judges. This year's festivals will include a new category, challenging the students to enlarge their musical achievements and earn "Proficiency Seals" in the areas of (1) accompanying anthems, (2) sight-reading, (3) transposition, (4) modulation and (5) classical selections. Although designed by Baptist musicians primarily for Baptist musicians, an increasing number of young people of other faiths participate in these festivals each year.

Festivals will be held at First Church in Philadelphia, First in Eupora, First Church in McComb, Temple Church in Hattiesburg and West Jackson Street Church in Tupelo at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 30. Festivals on Jan. 31 will begin at 6:30 p.m. at First Church in Clinton, First Church in Laurel, First Church in Columbus, First Church in Natchez, and First Church in Greenville. The festivals on Feb. 1 will begin at 9 a.m. and are scheduled for Broadmoor Church in Jackson, First Church in Meridian,

Southern Baptist Convention Program Features Announced

ATLANTA — The tentative program for the annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting at Miami Beach, Fla., June 10-12, has been announced by Dr. Searcy S. Garrison, Atlanta, Dr. Garrison, executive secretary-treasurer for the Georgia Baptist Convention, is chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Order of Business.

About 15,000 Baptists from across the nation are scheduled to attend the three-day session. Several pre-convention meetings are scheduled for Sunday, June 8, and Monday, June 9.

The convention proper gets underway Tuesday morning, June 10, and continues through Thursday evening, June 12.

Featured speakers include Jerry Weber, Lubbock, Tex., convention

president; James T. Draper, First Church, Dallas, Tex.; Duke K. McCall, president, Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; William L. Self, Wiecu Road Church, Atlanta; comedian Jerry Clower, Yazoo City, Miss.; W. A. Criswell, pastor, First Church, Dallas, Tex.; and Angel Martinez, evangelist from Fort Smith, Ark.

Singer Anita Bryant will present special music on Wednesday evening.

Jimmy R. Allen, First Church, San Antonio, Tex., will preach the convention sermon Wednesday morning, June 11. Election of officers is scheduled also for Wednesday morning. Weber, pastor of First Church, Lubbock in completing his first term as convention president. If the convention follows the pattern of recent years, Weber probably will be elected to a second term as president.

Theme for the convention is "Let Christ's Freedom Ring." On Tuesday morning, June 10, the Foreign Mission Board and Historical Commission will present a Liberty Bell to the convention.

The Southern Baptist Convention was organized in Augusta, Ga. in 1845 to provide an organization for Baptists in the United States and territories to promote missions and educational social and benevolent causes.

views of local autonomy. In addition, the AUCECB said it would recognize only those congregations that had been legally registered by the state.

In his address to the Council's congress, General Secretary Alexei Bichkov reported that in the past five years, "our brotherhood has been abundantly blessed and inspired. Two groups of students have finished two-year Bible correspondence courses, with a total number of 200 students."

At the same time, he said, "we are developing and strengthening our

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John Lee Taylor Named Order Of Business Chairman

Dr. John Lee Taylor, pastor of First Baptist Church, Grenada, has been elected chairman of the Committee on Order of Business for the 1975 Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The annual convention will be held Nov. 11-13 at First Church, Jackson. The Committee on Order of Business draws up the program for the meeting and aids in keeping the convention proceedings on an orderly basis.

Rev. Benton Preston, pastor of Midway Church, Jackson, was named secretary of the committee.

Other committee members are Dr. Sarah Rouse, Clinton, professor at Mississippi College; Dr. Clark McMurray, pastor of First Church, Pascoagoula; Dr. Bob Ramsay, pastor of Calvary Church, Tupelo; and Dr. Kitchings, pastor of First Church, Kosciusko, and president of the Mis-

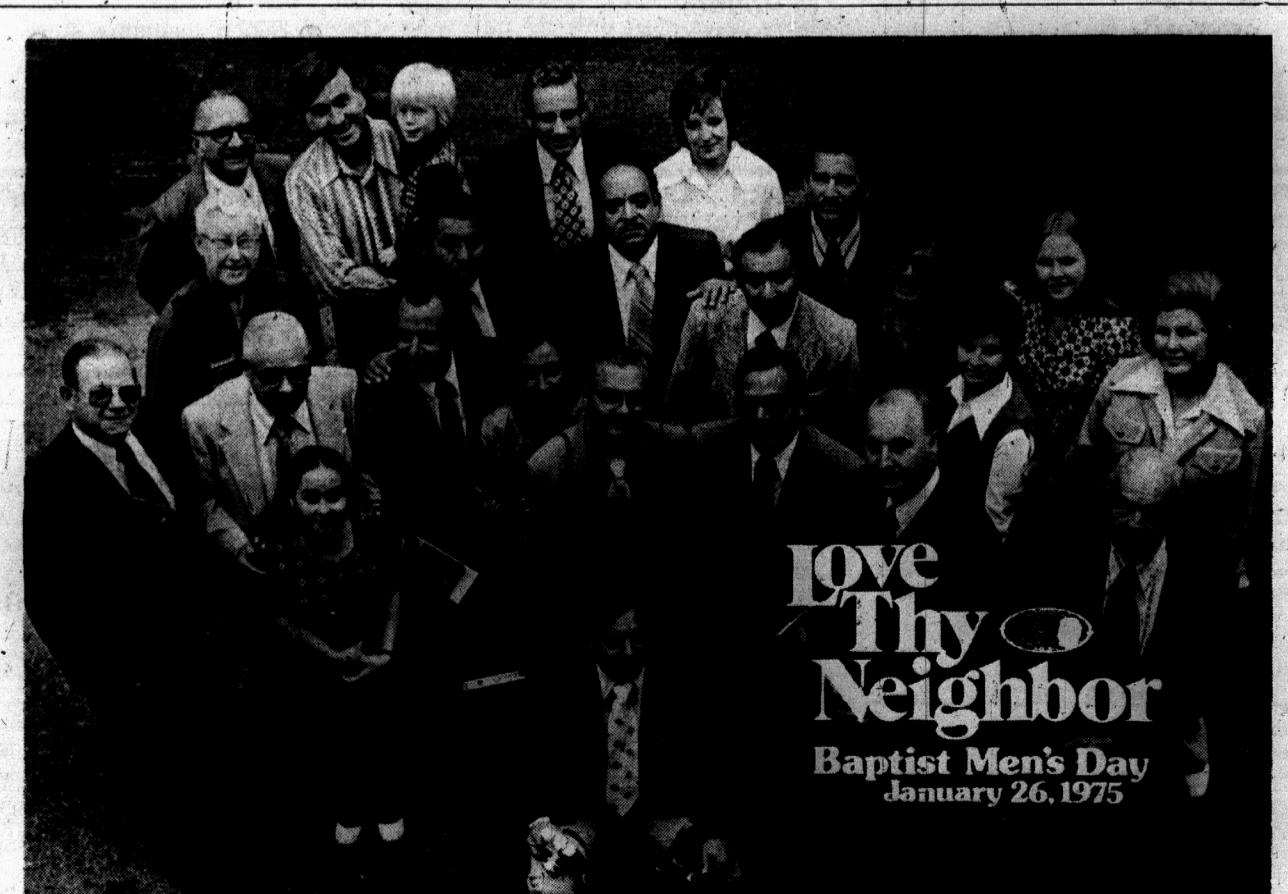
sissippi Baptist Convention Board.

Rev. James Richardson, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, is an ex officio member of the committee and was present at the committee's organizational meeting.

The committee selected as a theme for the 1975 convention, "Give Me a Vision, Lord." One of the major emphases of the convention will be the observation of the 50th anniversary of the Cooperative Program.

"The program will seek to cause Mississippi Baptists to seek a visionary inspiration to guide the course of their efforts over the next 50 years," Dr. Taylor said.

He added that he or any committee member would welcome suggestions that Mississippi Baptists might have concerning the nature and structure of the program.



Thursday, January 16, 1975



The destruction of Southwest Mall in McComb is shown behind, left to right, Tom Magruder, Carl Haskins, and Dr. J. B. Fowler Jr. Magruder and Haskins are owners

of the shopping center, and Dr. Fowler is pastor of First Church, where Haskins is a member.

Tornado Hits Homes, Churches, Businesses

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bile. He said seven families lost their homes completely. Those families who could not live in their houses found other places to stay, some of them with other members.

The North McComb Church had a 10:30 thanksgiving service on Sunday morning, and Rev. Ratcliff said when he opened the service for testimonies it was 20 minutes before he could regain the floor.

Insurance Rewritten

North McComb had just rewritten its insurance to change from cash value to replacement value, and Rev. Ratcliff said they had already been informed that the entire cost would be taken care of.

In addition to the 80 homes destroyed in the city, which has a high Baptist population, another 99 suffered major damage. There were 91 more which sustained slight damage.

First Baptist Church Education Director Harold Fleming helped with the damage estimate for the city. He said figures indicated that the total loss would approach \$80 million. Structural damage alone was judged to be \$18 million, and this doesn't include furnishings, merchandise, and other contents.

W. R. Roberts, Annuity Board representative for Mississippi; Dr. Fowler; and I rode through the devastated area by the authority of Dr. Fowler's Red Cross badge. His church had been used as a refugee center on the day of the storm.

As we would pass a battered or leveled home he would say a deacon lived there or a Sunday School worker lived there.

Perhaps more than 1,000 people lost their homes or were unable to live in their damaged houses. Fearing the 25 degree weather forecast for Saturday night, the second night after the tornado, the Hunters had rented an apartment. There was no power in the First Baptist Church parsonage, and the roof was heavily damaged. It sits on a rise in the terrain, and one could stand on the driveway and see the path of the storm's destruction 150 yards away.

Hardwood trees two and three feet in diameter were uprooted, and large pine trees were broken as if they were sticks.

Some 119 persons were admitted to the hospital in McComb, and five were transported on to Jackson. There were four fatalities in McComb, none known to be Baptists. In Lincoln County, however, just to the north, Herbert

Savell lost his life when his home was demolished. There were three other fatalities there. Savell was a member of the Ruth Baptist Church. Funeral services were at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Ruth Church, according to Lincoln Association Missionary Eugene L. Roberts.

Savell followed his wife in death. He is survived by four other children. Vernon and Herbert, Jr. live in Mississippi and have been pastors in the state. William Hillen lives in Alabama and Mrs. B. O. Younger lives in Delaware.

"Had My Shave"

"It just makes you sick," said Dr. Fowler, who had been a pastor in Lubbock, Texas, when a tornado struck there. "I've had my share," he declared. "But the downpour of rain had no more than stopped when the McComb people were out with their saws cleaning up," he said. By Saturday, the day following the storm, one-way lanes had been cleared through the streets, and National Guardsmen and highway patrolmen were at almost every intersection to check on those entering the area.

It was Haskins' second tornado also.

He and his partner, Tom Macgruder, had owned a shopping center in Laurel, Miss., that had been destroyed some years before. "Insurance will not completely cover the damage," he said. "But we'll rebuild and start over." He estimated about \$1 million in structural damage only to the center. This did not include merchandise.

The entire center was destroyed, and the Rose Department Store was flattened. The McComb center was only two years old.

Haskins rode out the storm flat on the floor of the vault in his office in the shopping center just behind the Rose store. Drug store manager Traylor was under a wall when it collapsed, but was uninjured.

In McComb 30 business houses were totally destroyed, two suffered major damage, and 9 had slight damage.

"It was a monstrous thing," said Dr. Fowler.

"The Red Cross and the Salvation Army have simply been fantastic," said Rev. Ratcliff. "They were here immediately after the storm and have helped in every way that they could. They deserve a great deal of credit for their efforts."

Book Store Managers --

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through the nearest bulk-mail center, faster service can be given by locating near those centers," said Graham. "This should improve the mail-order service."

In addition to the 56 existing book stores, new mail-order centers will be located near the post office's bulk-mail centers, Graham said. One or more mail-order centers will be opened in each of the six regions. The first one will open in Greensboro, N. C., this summer with the last center scheduled to open in 1978.

According to Graham, the regional managers' responsibility includes seeing that the necessary products are in the stores and mail-order centers. With this increased control of the merchandise and with the locations near the post office bulk-mailing points, the service to Southern Baptists will be improved.

Southern Stores

Crawford, formerly manager of the Western and seminary stores department, will manage the newly-created

Southern stores region. This region includes book stores in Mobile, Ala.; Memphis and Nashville, Tenn.; Little Rock, Ark.; Alexandria and New Orleans, La.; and Jackson, Miss.

Crawford, a native of Virginia, earned the bachelor of arts degree from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., and master of arts degree from George Peabody College in Nashville. He came to the board in 1957 as direct mail supervisor in the merchandise selection department. In 1961 he was named supervisor of the sales promotion section in the book store division. He became manager of the campus stores department in 1972, and manager of the Western and seminary stores department in 1973.

Edwards, former manager of the Broadman trade sales department, will manage the East Central stores region including stores in Raleigh, Charlotte, Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Asheville, Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, and the new mail-order center to open this year in Greensboro, all in North Carolina; Columbia and Greenville, S. C., and Roanoke, Va.

As manager of the Western stores region, Mendenhall will be responsible for the stores in Phoenix, Ariz.; Fresno, Calif.; Denver, Colo.; Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.; Carterville, Ill.; Owensboro, Ky.; Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.; Albuquerque and Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, both in New Mexico; El Paso, Tex.; Kansas City and St. Louis, Mo.; and Vancouver, Washington.

Miss McCroskey, marketing methods consultant in the book store division, will manage the Northeastern stores region including stores in Indianapolis, Ind.; Louisville, Ky.; Lutherville, Md.; Norfolk and Richmond, Va.; Columbus, Ohio; and Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Paul Webb, former manager of the Birmingham (Ala.) book store, will manage the Southwestern region, which includes stores in Shreveport, La.; Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth; Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Okla.; and Arlington, Fort Worth, Houston, Lubbock, and San Antonio, Texas.

Former manager of the Central stores department, Turner, will manage the Southeastern stores region.

Southern Baptist Evangelists Shedding 'Step Child' Image

BOLIVAR, Mo. (BP) — Some 50 Southern Baptist evangelists, meeting here, moved a step closer to shedding their "step child" status and becoming more of an integral part of the denomination.

The evangelists met at Southwest Baptist College at the invitation of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's division of evangelism for inspiration and instruction for more effective ministry.

Sam Cathey, president of the 400-member Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, lauded the meeting, saying, "I'm glad to see our evangelists becoming something more than a step child of the denomination — especially now that the film — glam of some of our contemporaries is dying out."

Bill Hogue, director of the Home Mission Board's evangelism division, pointed out common grounds between pastors and denominational workers and the evangelists. "We're all called by the Lord to his churches to proclaim the Good News," Hogue said.

"Most of us were saved through the witness of a Baptist, went to Baptist schools, and depend on Baptist churches to support our work," he continued. "This makes us a team. We were the last time you prayed for me?"

Hogue also suggested, "You need to encourage us through our denominational offices. We don't always have the money to send people into pioneer areas. Maybe you could give a week of your time to go into 'Podunk Holfer' to minister."

"The denomination has a lot to offer you," he went on. "We can have trained personnel sent in ahead of a revival meeting to train laypersons in lay evangelism schools and with renewal experiences."

National Conference On Revival To Be At Mobile In March

The National Conference on Revival, a five-day period of study to strengthen the spiritual life of Christians, has been scheduled for March 10-14 at Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.

According to Rev. Fred Wolfe, pastor of the host church, the program will be led by Miss Bertha Smith, Rev. Jack Taylor, Rev. Ron Dunn and Rev. Manley Beasley.

Rev. Wolfe said that evening sessions would be held all five days with morning sessions to take place Tuesday through Friday.

He said that individuals who want to deepen their prayer experience and develop the abundant, spirit-filled life are encouraged to attend. Sleeping accommodations for out-of-town visitors will be available in the homes of church members provided arrangements are made in advance.

Persons interested in the unique renewal program are invited to write or call Mr. Wolfe for more details. The Cottage Hill Church is located at 4255 Cottage Hill Road in Mobile. The phone number is (205) 661-8221.

Texas Pastor Killed In Light Plane Crash

FORT DAVIS, Tex. (BP) — William McGregor, 39, pastor of University Baptist Church in Clear Lake, Tex., and his wife and two daughters died in a plane crash near here.

McGregor and his wife, Shirley, 10, and two daughters Kathleen, 17, and Colleen, 12, were enroute from Houston to Riverside, Calif., when their light plane crashed in the mountains 30 miles northwest of Fort Davis in remote Jeff Davis County. They were last heard from Dec. 30. The wreckage was found Jan. 1.

McGregor was pastor of Westbury Baptist Church in Houston from August 1965 to October 1972. He was in the construction business when he became pastor of the newly-formed University Church.

Memorial services were conducted in Clear Lake and at First Baptist Church, Corpus Christi, Texas.

Stores included in this region are those in Birmingham; Atlanta and Savannah, Ga.; Chattanooga and Knoxville, Tenn.; and Jacksonville, Miami, and Tampa, Fla.

"The regional managers will reside in their territories," Graham stated. "This will put them closer to the people being served. By supervising fewer stores in each region, they can give closer attention to the stores and customers."

Director Of Rio Grande River Ministry To Hold Conference In Jackson Jan. 20

Elmin Howell, Director of Rio Grande River Ministry of Texas Baptists, will be in Jackson, Jan. 20, for a conference with churches interested in participating in the River Ministry.

He will be available for private conferences throughout the day Monday. There will be a River Ministry Seminar at 7:30. These meetings will be held at the McDowell Road Baptist Church, Jackson, Rev. John Hilburn, pastor. Interested individual churches may call the church office for appointments (Phone 372-1594).

Newsbriefs In The World Of Religion



MONROVIA, Calif. (RNS) — The president of World Vision International has appealed to restaurants, airlines and others who serve food to the public, to help curb world hunger by cutting down on portions. "Food portions served in most restaurants far exceed the quantity we need," said Dr. W. Stanley Mooneyham.

WASHINGTON, D. C. (RNS) — Thirteen national organizations have filed a "friend of the court" brief with the U. S. Supreme Court in opposition to two Pennsylvania laws that provide state funds for textbooks and auxiliary services for non-public schools.

WASHINGTON, D. C. (RNS) — A congressman has recommended establishment of a blue ribbon panel or commission composed of professional and lay people with "extensive comprehensive knowledge" to study the "vital subject" of abortion.

Rep. Gilbert Gude (R-Md.), in proposing such an approach, said the "complexity of the issues involving abortion are so great and involve such broad segments of legal, medical, social and religious fields of knowledge and belief that I have strong doubts that legislative committees are fully able to give the attention and time to this subject that justice and equity require."

Rep. Gude, a Roman Catholic, said a commission similar to the Comis-

SION ON THE ETHICS OF THE USE OF HUMAN SUBJECTS IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH IS "NECESSARY TO ADEQUATELY ADDRESS AND FULLY STUDY THIS AREA."

"Regardless of whether or not one agrees with the Supreme Court decision (in January 1973 overturning most state abortion laws)," Rep. Gude said, "the gravity of this issue demands that all individuals or groups who wish to be heard on this vital subject should have the benefit of a governmental forum for objective, rational discussion."

There have been no committee hearings on various abortion measures submitted in the House of Representatives, and the House has rejected a proposal for a selected committee to hold hearings on Senate resolutions designed to restrict abortion.

WASHINGTON, D. C. (RNS) — Enrollment in private and religiously-affiliated colleges and universities increased this fall by 3 per cent, compared to an increase of 1.8 per cent a year earlier, according to a government report.

WASHINGTON, D. C. (RNS) — A 16 per cent increase in serious crime across the nation has been reported for the first nine months of 1974 by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. For the same period of 1973, the increase had been 1 per cent.

By Toby Drain

WASHINGTON (BP) — Denying he ever said "charismatics should get right or get out," Southern Baptist Convention president Jarey Weber said here that he believed the denomination has enough "elasticity" to include persons who differ in some of the teachings of the Word of God.

Speaking to the annual meeting of state directors of evangelism, sponsored by the SBC Home Mission Board's division of evangelism, Weber noted that many churches, associations, and some state conventions have begun speaking about the tongues-speaking aspect of the Neo-Pentecostal Movement. Some have declared that any Baptists or church which promotes such practices cannot be a part of their fellowship.

"We need to face it and speak a biblical word that will assure our people of a sound doctrinal position," said the Lubbock, Tex., pastor.

He said the controversy has arisen because too many people are ignorant of the Bible and ministry of the Holy Spirit and spiritual "gifts."

It has also occurred, he said, because "we haven't done much preaching about it" and because of cold, apathetic, indifferent worship services that prompted people to look elsewhere for "alive ness."

Weber said a reporter had asked him before the annual meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, which was to consider a motion on the issue, if he believed people who practiced glossolalia (speaking in tongues) should get out of the denomination.

Enough Elasticity

"I told him that I believed that within our structure there is enough elasticity for people who differ in some of the teachings of the word of God," Weber said.

"But I said that any pastor, priest, or rabbi who had any individual or group of individuals who created dis-harmony, division, or killed the spirit of evangelism in his church would wish that person or group would get out. The article came out stating that I suggested that charismatics get right or get out. I was misquoted."

Good and bad things are happening in the Neo-Pentecostal Movement the SBC president said.

"For the first time many people are hearing of the Holy Spirit and his Word and being convicted and saved," he said. "And some lukewarm Christians have been filled and have a new

joy — they have taken on new excitement. Wherever this is happening this is good.

"But many are misinterpreting their experiences. Some who are being saved say they are being baptized (with the Holy Spirit). Many do not understand what they are experiencing in their lives and seek to impose it on others and make every other individual have like experiences."

Weber said Southern Baptists have had so much denominational success that they have come to depend on their own promotional genius and intellect and have neglected preaching and teaching about the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

"We are ignorant of the Holy Spirit because we are ignorant about the Bible," he charged. "We need to instruct our people on the meaning of baptism and the filling of the Spirit. When a person is converted, he is baptized into the body of Christ, baptized of the Holy Spirit. We are put into Him, it is a once and for all experience."

Filling Experiences

"As we develop we have filling experiences as often as we surrender. It is not a matter of praying God's Spirit down but a willingness to become aware of his evident presence and a willingness to let him control our lives."

The SBC president said that the Holy Spirit "gives us" with gifts he wanted us to have." And he said it is one of the main roles of the leadership of the church to help persons discover these gifts and channel them.

Charismatic expressions have caused several Baptist associations and three state conventions to express grave concern over the charismatic movement and divisiveness in tongues speaking. Reports indicate that an association in Florida recently ejected two churches involved in charismatic activity.

The overall charismatic controversy was voted the number six story in the 1974 Top 10 ballot conducted by Baptist Press, the Southern Baptist Convention news service, among editors of state Baptist newspapers and Baptist Press Bureau and national office personnel.

Weber said he knew there were differing opinions of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, but he said, "We ought to be able to speak out on what seems to us to be biblical truth without condemnation from others."



New Staff Members Visit

Ninety persons who have joined church staffs in Mississippi during the past six months visited the Baptist Building in Jackson Jan. 9. They toured the entire building in 10 groups and spent about 15 minutes visiting in each department. Above Pete Freeman, left, new associate pastor at First Church, Kosciusko, chats with Stewardship Department Director John Alexander. Mrs. Freeman is shown at center. The Freemans came from Lufkin, Texas.

Mississippi Student Gets HMB Semester Assignment

ATLANTA (BP) — Henry Magee of Mississippi College is one of thirteen college students assigned to Semester Missions Projects in eight states by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's department of special mission ministries.

Semester Missions Projects are for college students interested in devoting a semester's time to Southern

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brotherly relations with Evangelical Christians, Baptists, Mennonites, Pentecostals, and brothers from other churches."

In another report, the congress declared that "in the course of this year almost all churches in the brotherhood have performed baptismal services. We praise our Lord, the Prince of Peace, who blesses our work in this vast field."

Dr. Robert S. Denny, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance in Washington, D. C., was among 130 guests at the congress. Its Scriptural theme was Ephesians 4:3—"...endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace."

Congress officials emphasized that leadership roles are being increasingly handled by younger persons. Statistics indicated that 57 of the delegates were under 40 years of age, 250 were between 40 and 60, and 179 were over 60.



Cooperative Program Powerline Of Missions

The Cooperative Program means young men and their wives can come to the Baptist Training Centre, Tamale. While doing their course of study it is possible for them to live in a comfortable new dormitory, made possible by Southern Baptists. This powerline reaches into the villages where a means of transportation, given by you, makes it possible for the students to go where we hold reading classes, evangelistic services. Medical needs are also met by a dependable means of transport. Many responsibilities of our children at home, in college, are met through this same powerline. There is a greater power that is felt daily as you pray for us and for the people with whom we work.

Thank you for helping our children to come to visit us, once during their years in college.

We are deeply grateful!
Rev. and Mrs. Ralph Davis
Tamale, Ghana

H. P. McCormick Dies: Emeritus Missionary

TAMPA, Fla. — H. P. McCormick, emeritus Southern Baptist missionary, died here January 2 at 7 p.m. following a heart attack. He would have been 80 years old on Jan. 30.

The funeral was held Sunday, January 5, at the Bayshore Baptist Church, with burial in Port Hudson, La.

Appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1920, McCormick served a total of 40 years in Nigeria and Hawaii. He retired in 1960. An educator, he led in the development of Baptist College, Iwo, Nigeria, and the Hawaii Baptist Academy, Honolulu.

Born in Texas in 1885, McCormick grew up in Mississippi. He married Mary Catherine Reeks in 1925.

Survivors include his wife of Tampa; one son, two daughters, one sister, and ten grandchildren.

Baptist mission efforts across the United States.

The students will serve in resort missions, student ministries, church extension and in Christian social ministries in Baptist centers.

The 13 include Darrel and Jeanette Adams, who are finishing a Home Mission Board US-2 assignment as student workers at the University of West Virginia; Jeff and Diane Ashton, who are continuing a Semester Missions Project at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas;

Susan Dossy, an elementary education major at Oklahoma State University, assigned to weekday ministries in the Milwaukee Baptist Center; Wanda Durham of West Georgia College, who will work with preschoolers and teenagers in weekday and language ministries at Crownpoint, N. Mex.

Anita Morris of Oklahoma Baptist University, who will work in the crisis concern center in Salt Lake City; Edward Smith of Ouachita Baptist University and Janet Sublette of Arkansas State College, who will work in a special ministry to the ski resorts in Vermont and then in church extension;

Sharon Rouppeit, a recent graduate of Golden Gate Seminary, who will do student work at the University of Michigan at Flint, Mich.; Carol Lynn Goodson of Ouachita Baptist University, who will work in Kansas;

Timothy Adrian of Baylor University, who will work in church extension in Harrisburg, Pa.; and Magee, who will work in church extension in Utah-Idaho Baptist Convention.

Applications for the Semester Missions Projects are accepted anytime and assignments made by the department of special mission ministries.

Smith County Bible Conference At Taylorsville

A Mid-Winter Bible Conference, sponsored by Smith County Association, will be held January 19-22 at First Church, Taylorsville.

An article in last week's Baptist Record erroneously stated that the conference would be at First Church, Raleigh.

Conferences will be held each night, Sunday-Wed., at 7, and Monday, Tuesday, and Wed. mornings at 10.

Program personalities will include Dr. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer, Miss. Baptist Convention Board; Dr. Harper Shannon, pastor, Huffman Church, Birmingham; Martha Brannan, concert soprano from Dallas; and Dr. Joe Tuten, pastor of Calvary, Jackson.

Rev. Charlie Bryant, Smith County supt. of missions, is director of the conference. Rev. W. C. Burns, Taylorsville pastor, will be the music director.

Conferences Planned To Help Interpret 1975-76 "Church: The Sunday Night Place"

Sixty-six associations in Mississippi have scheduled Pastor-Church Training Director Conferences during January and February, according to Kermit S. King, Director of the Mississippi Church Training Department. Thirty-two of these will be next week.

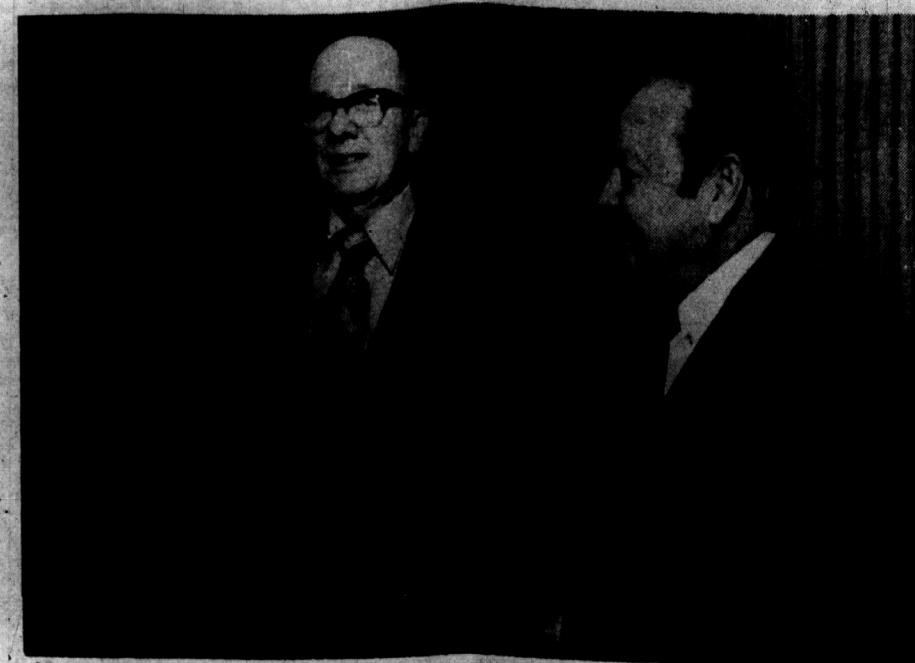
These conferences have been planned to interpret the 1975-76 CHURCH: THE SUNDAY NIGHT PLACE promotion plan which involves many preparation actions during the period April-September, 1975.

Assistance will be given to directors and pastors in understanding their administrative and leadership functions as they relate to Church Training. They will also receive help in planning for the enlargement and improvement of their Church Training program.

Religious Leadership Conference Plans Legislative Briefing Seminar

The Mississippi Religious Leadership Conference, Dr. Wm. P. Davis, executive director, will hold their annual Legislative Briefing Seminar at the Mount Helm Baptist Church, 300 E. Church St., Jackson, Thursday night, January 23, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Among those participating will be



Hospital Presents Plaque To Roberts

Dr. Frank Groner, right, administrator of the Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis, is pictured as he presents a plaque expressing appreciation to W. R. Roberts, Annuity Board representative for Mississippi. Mr. Roberts had just completed two terms (six years) on the Board of Trustees of Baptist Memorial Hospital. The Board includes nine trustees from each of three states, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Other 1974-75 trustees from Mississippi include Cameron Dean, Jack Sartin, J. W. Caperton, William A. Crabill, Harvey L. Flowers, Lucius B. Marion, Henry C. Self, and Clarence L. Stanford.

A certificate presented to Mr. Roberts stated, "During his period of six years of trusteeship, Mr. Roberts has been most supportive of the program of the hospital and most congenial in his personal appreciation of all associated with the hospital. He has assumed special assignments in terms of service on the Nominating Committee and the Awards and Memorial Committee. In all instances, he has served positively, reliably, and supportively."

BWA Urges Aid

For Damaged Baptist Churches

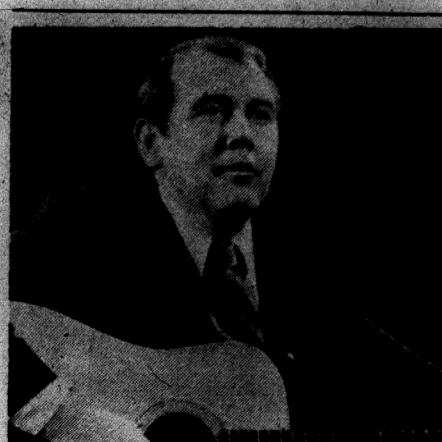
DARWIN, NORTHERN TERRITORY, Australia (BP) — Baptist churches and institutions suffered damage estimated at \$500,000 to \$625,000 in the hurricane which practically destroyed this city on Christmas day, according to Alan C. Prior, chairman of the World Aid and Relief Committee of the Baptist Union of Australia.

One of two Baptist churches in Darwin was completely destroyed; the other lost its roof but held services in the shell of the building on Sunday, Dec. 28. One of two parsonages belonging to the respective churches was completely destroyed, and the other suffered extensive damage.

A Baptist hospital for aborigines children was not damaged significantly and is serving as a reception and evacuation center for victims of the storm. A Baptist home for the aged, of relatively recent construction, also withstood the hurricane force and continues in normal operation.

The Baptist World Alliance (BWA) stands ready to receive donations to assist the Baptists of Darwin in the reconstruction of churches and parsonages and with other needs, Carl Tiller, BWA relief coordinator, said in Washington.

RAPID RECORD PAGE 3
Thursday, January 18, 1975



Humorist To Speak At REA In Biloxi

Dan McBride will be the speaker for the Friday evening banquet, during the Feb. 8-annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association at the Sheraton - Biloxi.

Mr. McBride, of Jacksonville, Tex., was born in that state. As a humorist, musician, and speaker, he is a full-time religious entertainer and has recorded four record albums. A graduate of Howard Payne and of Southwestern Seminary, he was formerly minister of education, and associate pastor.

He will also bring a message during the Saturday morning session at the REA meet.

Episcopal Women Ordination Ranked First By Religious News Writers

CHICAGO (BP) — The ordination outside of "regular" Episcopal Church channels — of 11 women deacons as priests drew the number one spot in the 1974 top 10 balloting of the Religion Newswriters Association made up of religion newswriters on the nation's secular newspapers.

In comparison, an earlier poll, conducted by Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention, among Southern Baptist newspaper editors and BP bureau personnel around the nation, gave a number five ranking to SBC developments involving rights and ordination of women.

The number two RNA ranking went to the continuing controversy over the doctrinal split in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, involving the firing of John Tietjen, president of Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis, and the forming of Seminex, the so-called "seminary-in-exile" by the majority of Concordia's faculty and students.

Other rankings by the religion newswriters follow:

3. Watergate and its far-reaching controversy, effects and moral implications. (That story gained first place in the BP poll.)

4. Response of the world's religious

leaders to the world hunger crisis (second in the BP poll).

5. The "Exorcist" phenomenon.

6. The school textbook controversy in West Virginia, involving religious figures.

7. The International Congress on World Evangelization in Lausanne, Switzerland (18th in the BP poll).

8. Expanded interest of Protestant evangelicals in social concern.

9. The persistence of the charismatic movement, involving tongues-speaking and other manifestations of Holy Spirit gifts (sixth in the BP poll).

10. The role of church leaders in sanctioning or fighting "repressive" regimes, in such places as South Korea, the Philippines, Brazil, Chile and the Union of South Africa.

A third poll, released earlier by the Religious News Service out of New York City, ranked many of the same stories.

The international, interfaith news service gave first place to the moral

challenge to religion to respond to the needs of humanity in a world of crisis brought on by food and energy shortages, population growth. (The BP poll, dividing those issues, gave a second to disaster response—including hunger—and a seventh to Southern Baptist increases in the face of inflation.)

Remaining spots in the Religious News Service poll follow:

2. Ordination of the 11 Episcopalian women; 3. Evangelization (including Lausanne, the 1974 Synod of Roman Catholic Bishops in Rome, the World

Methodist Council and numerous locally based groups); 4. Acceleration of Middle East tensions and all of its implications; 5. A tie: Religious protests to human rights violations in the Philippines, Chile, Brazil and the Soviet Union; the coup in Portugal, leading to freeing of colonies in Africa and start of dramatic shifts in white-ruled South Africa; 6. A combined category of diverse religious concern over the patriotic spiritual tone of the U. S., including morality issues of Watergate, West Virginia textbook conflict, Wounded Knee trials, abortion, and amnesty-clemency for draft resisters.

Also, 7. Mother Elizabeth Seton designated first U. S. Catholic saint; 8. Dissension intensified in Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; 9. Installation of Donald Coggan as Archbishop of Canterbury, head of world Anglican communion; and 10. Lutheran-Catholic theologian agreement on papal primacy.

Jackson County To Sponsor Hogue Crusade

Richard Hogue will be in Pascagoula War Memorial Stadium March 16-21 for an areawide crusade sponsored by Jackson County Baptists.

General directors will be Bob Horner, Clark McMurray and Walton Douglas, who will be assisted by the following chairmen:

Prayer — Kenna Byrd; Finance — Alen Webb; Banquet — J. T. Hannaford; Jets — Athens McNeil; Counseling & Follow-up — Willie Wimbs; Parking — John Ledetter; Ushers — A. J. Pace; Arrangement and Facilities Committee — James Miller; Special Speaking Engagements Committee — John Brock; Publicity — Byron E. Mathis.

Griffin St. To Host Conference For CT Directors, Pastors

Griffin Street Church, Moss Point, will host the Pastors and Church Training Directors Conference with David Roddy, minister of Education, First Church, Jackson, as the conference leader.

The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m., January 30. All pastors and Church Training directors and other interested persons are expected to be present, according to Rev. Athens McNeil, pastor at Griffin Street.

Coffee and cake will be served at 7 p.m.

YOU CAN SUPPORT

for all time to come through your Christian will Blue Mountain College, Clark's College, Mississippi College, William Carey College, Mississippi Baptist Children's Village, State, Home and Foreign Missions or any agency, institution or cause supported by Mississippi Baptists. Through the Cooperative Program you can support all.

The Southern Baptist Convention has designated JANUARY — Make Your Will Month and we request that you consider the following as you think about your estate:

Seven Questions for You to Answer:

1. Have you planned for the ultimate distribution of your estate? () ()
2. Do you want the state to determine who benefits from your estate? () ()
3. Have you paid enough taxes in your lifetime, and would you like to reduce tax payments when you die? () ()
4. Do you plan to leave at least a tithe of your estate to Christian causes? () ()
5. Will your wife have legal problems because you failed to "spell it all out" in your will? () ()
6. Are you one of eight who has an up-to-date will? () ()
7. Have you made provisions for minor children, dependent parents, etc., in your will? () ()

Seven Answers you Need to Consider:

1. State laws determine to whom and in what amount the property will be distributed, if there is no will.
2. Inflexible state laws divide an estate among the remaining spouse and children (or relatives).
3. By providing for charitable causes in your will, varying amounts of taxes may be saved.
4. The continuing ministry of our Lord can be supported by your remembering his causes in your will.
5. By naming an executor, your business affairs and estate can be properly cared for.
6. It is shocking but true that every week \$96 million piles up in probate court proceedings because there is not a good will or no will.
7. Since there is no way of knowing in what order people will die, a will should provide for various contingencies (such as minor children).

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION

P. O. Box 530, Jackson, Mississippi 39205

- () Please send information about how I can serve Christ and Baptist causes for all time to come through our Foundation.
() I would appreciate a visit from a Foundation staff member at my convenience and with no obligation to me.

Name _____ Street _____ City _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

SBC CP Gifts Ahead Of Last Year

NASHVILLE (BP) — Receipts through the national Cooperative Program unified budget of the Southern Baptist Convention, for the first three months of the 1974-75 fiscal year, are running ahead of the same period last fiscal year.

Total receipts for the year to date show nearly \$10.5 million, a 6.30 per cent — or \$621,472 — increase over more than \$9.86 million collected in the first three months of 1973-74. That includes Cooperative Program and designated giving.

The Cooperative Program portion, which came from some 34,665 SBC churches in 33 state conventions throughout the 50 states, totals more than \$9.37 million, up 5.61 per cent — or nearly one half million dollars — over more than \$8.87 million in Cooperative Program receipts for the same period last year.

Designated gifts totaled more than \$1.1 million — a 12.46 percent rise over the \$991,069 contributed last year. For December, 1974, alone, however, contributions, compared to December,

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

EDITORIAL Guest Editorial

"Intestate"

James F. Cole
in
Baptist Message (La.)

The cliche in legal circles is that "where there's a will, there are relatives," but where there's no will at all, there are even more. A person's death can all too easily become the opening shot in an all-out family fight over the possessions of the deceased. Countless millions of families have been torn apart and caused immeasurable pain and expense because of thoughtlessness of those who died without writing a will. There have been endless cases in which families have split apart over a set of soup bowls or a couple of clay pots—because a will failed to spell out how the crockery should be divided.

How foolish it is for a person to die "intestate"—without a will. Therefore add to your New Year resolutions the high priority of making a will.

Each year January is designated as "Make Your Will Month" throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. The Baptist Message joins in the emphasis not simply to be cooperative, but because of the Biblical insistence that stewardship includes one's estate. If Baptists can come to recognize their stewardship obligation in death as many have in life, the end result will be dramatic in future accomplishments.

Stewardship in death is one of our most neglected and undeveloped ministries. Southern Baptists have an exalted reputation for their giving priorities in the form of tithes and offerings, but in the main, it ends there. Outsiders could well conclude that the goal of Baptists in stewardship is the tithe.

Guest Editorial

The Last Word

In Florida Baptist Witness
Edgar R. Cooper

A young boy was asked if his father had any last words before he died. The boy replied, "Dad didn't have any last words. Mother was with him to the end."

This is somewhat like the Fourth International Synod of Bishops convened by Pope Paul VI in Rome—the Bishops didn't have any last words for his Immanence was with them all the way.

At the 30-day Synod, which ended in late October, Catholic prelates from all over the world voiced desires and hopes for changes within the structure of the church. Few of their ideas prevailed. When the meeting was over, it was clear the Pope had not abdicated.

In one instance, churchmen wanted more authority or autonomy. The leaning was toward decentralization. This did not suit the Pope as he saw such action as weakening papal authority, which would eventually spell the end

Some men spend a lifetime working and planning so that their families will be adequately cared for financially in the event of death. For this they are to be commended. "But if any provide not for his own, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel" (I Tim 5:8). Yet these same men give no thought to leaving a share of their accumulated wealth to Kingdom interests.

Could it be that they forget or never realize that "thou shalt remember the Lord thy God; for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth?" God is as much concerned with how we dispose of our wealth as how we obtain it.

Every true Christian should emulate Christ, for in life and death He made provision for the believer. The one thing every man deserves, Jesus provided—"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you." He also left the legacy—"An inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you."

It is a strange paradox that a thrifty Christian will save money beyond his immediate needs and as he faces the sunset years of life that he will not continue the Christian stewardship conviction which he has actively followed in his weekly envelope by making a Christian will.

Somehow, the conviction needs to be developed among Christians that is not only thoughtless, but inconsiderate that a Christian would enjoy the blessings of God during his earthly sojourn, desire His unbroken fellowship in eternity and not leave a part of all of his earthly wealth to the cause of Christ. We hear the admonition don't be foolish as to use of energy, let us not be foolish as to the earnings we leave behind.

In truth, the way a man spends his

of 2,000 years of Roman Catholicism. He checked the suggestion by extolling papal authority as "the foundation and sign of the unity of the church."

The Charismatic Renewal Movement, which claims 350,000 adherents within the Catholic Church, also was warned about becoming too rambunctious. Some Synod delegates praised the charismatics, others indicated apprehension over the movement because it seems too independent and undisciplined.

Granted Catholicism has changed in some respects, but the absolute primacy of the Pope remains. Bishops may meet, discuss and propose, but nothing changes without the Pope's consent. He has the last word.

To a Baptist who insists on complete freedom in worship, such ecclesiastical control is incomprehensible. True spiritual unity is not achieved through clerical power, but by a voluntary personal adherence to the living Lord.

money is the surest clue to the kind of person he is. Making a will is, in reality, spending money. The same criteria of values, both negative and positive, which have influenced the Christian in his daily decisions for stewardship should also influence the decision as to where his money goes at his death.

Your will may be the most important single document you will sign in your lifetime. Among the sound reasons the Research Institute lists for having a valid will are:

—To dispose of your belongings to those whom you wish in the proportions that you choose.

—To provide for your loved ones in the best possible way.

—To let all interested relatives and/or friends know your wishes.

—To make it easier for the recipients of your bounty to obtain and use what you left and to avoid fights and irritations.

—To reveal aspects of your financial affairs that may be unknown to anybody else. (The very act of working up a will helps disclose loose ends that need to be tied up.)

—And most important, to avoid bottomless pitfalls of dying "intestate."

The Louisiana Baptist Foundation stands ready to assist you. Write or call Today.

J.F.C.

Guest Editorial Convictions With Compassion

Marse Grant In Biblical Recorder,
North Carolina

Alabama pastors heard a pertinent warning recently from James Pleitz of Pensacola, Fla., who told them that something is wrong when a pastor gets some kind of deep, sadistic joy out of watching his people squirm while he preaches the harsh doctrines of the Bible."

He said that "one of the greatest needs of most churches today is for some word of love and encouragement from the pulpit. (This) does not compromise the gospel. If you get a sadistic joy out of preaching the harsh doctrines—repentance, judgment, hell, etc., something's wrong. Preach the great truths of the Bible, but do it with a compassionate heart."

The Pensacola pastor suggested that preaching from a heart of love gets results, emphasizing that to preach anything else is to misrepresent Almighty God since God is love.

Not all pastors will subscribe to this philosophy 100 percent, but Pleitz has built one of the great ministering churches in the Southern Baptist Convention with this concept of preaching. His remarks caused at least one editor to re-evaluate his approach in dealing with some "hardline" issues. Convictions, yes, but have more compassion in articulating them.

cusses the violence in modern moving pictures and television and the affect which they are having on American life. He speaks of the how society is feeding on the shoot-'em-up violence of the screen in the theater and in our homes. He moves beyond this to other phases of violence in our land, including murder, rape, physical assault, child abuse, political assassination, suicide, automobile slaughter, sadism, and violence in many other areas. This is followed by an explanation of the roots or causes of this violence which exists in our midst and he includes not only the nature of man, but also the promotion of these things on the modern screen, printed page and in other places. Closing chapters deals with how the family can face this violence culture and what the church can do about it. This is a must book for those who are concerned about what is happening in America today. Perhaps it can arouse families and churches to action which can change the direction in which we are moving.

WHY LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE? by T. B. Maston (Thomas Nelson, paper, \$3.50, 204 pp.).

This is a book on basic Christian ethics, written by Dr. Maston, professor emeritus of Christian Ethics, Southwestern Seminary, well-known and widely respected for his teaching and writing. Some of the more evident emphases are the extensive use of the Scriptures; the relation of the Christian ethic to everyday living; and the place given to the cross as a distinctive and possibly a unique emphasis. A readable, practical, Biblically faithful, sensitive interpretation of the Christian life.

THE SHOOT-'EM-UP SOCIETY by Harry Hollis, Jr. (Broadman, 127 pp., pocket book, paper, \$1.50). Dr. Hollis is director of Family and Special Moral Concerns for the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. In this volume he dis-

CITIZENSHIP FOR CHRISTIANS by Foy Valentine (Broadman, 128 pp., pocket book, paper, \$1.50). Dr. Valentine, Executive Secretary of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, writes on the meaning of Christian citizenship. He presents the biblical view, and the historical view of citizenship. Other chapters discuss government functions, practical politics, and guidelines for political action. In this day of great problems in politics both national, state, and local, Christians need once again to look at their citizenship responsibilities. This book is written to help them do that.

WITNESSING FOR CHRIST by Leith Samuel (Zondervan, pocketbook paper, 93 pp., \$1.25). Practical messages on personal witness for Christ.



God's Great Commission

THE BAPTIST FORUM

Volunteers Needed For Christian Service Corps

Dear Editor:

W. L. Wilson (a fellow lay worker) serving as Coordinator for the Christian Service Corps of the Home Mission Board asked me to serve as state coordinator of this work.

The objective is to let Southern Baptists in Mississippi know of some opportunities for service which are available. Among the long-term needs are:

1. Retired or semi-retired builder to supervise construction.
2. Student workers, especially in Nevada and Ohio.

3. Self-supporting mission pastors in areas where employment opportunities are good.

4. Church in upper Michigan needs retired man or one who has resources to supplement his income.

Short-term needs are:

1. Two to four adults to coordinate young people's activities in Arizona.
2. June through August workers needed in migrant camps and to conduct backyard Bible Schools, Bible study, preaching services among Spanish.

3. Coordinators needed for seamen's ministry in Detroit.

4. Men and women needed who speak two or more languages for work in Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, Mississippi, Louisiana and New Mexico. Training sessions are offered at Glorieta and Ridgecrest.

Anyone interested in these should write William L. Wilson, Coordinator, Christian Service Corps, Home Mission Board, 1330 Spring Street, N. W., Atlanta, Georgia 30309.

I would appreciate it if you could call this to the attention of the Mississippi Southern Baptist constituency.

Owen Cooper
Yazoo City, MS.

Well Known Leader Writes Concerning Cooperative Program Issue

Dear Editor:

Thanks for the best special issue on the Cooperative Program I have anywhere seen.

This can be a great year for Southern Baptists if our Editors follow your fine example of telling our people what this Life-line means to our cooperative effort to further the Kingdom of God.

With all best wishes for the New Year,

Sincerely
Louie D. Newton

Readers Miss Mrs. Fancher

Dear Dr. Odie:

Why must Mrs. Fancher's column be put in the Baptist Record for both Dr. Swor and Mrs. Fancher? Surely they won't be writing about the same things. I believe we Baptist women deserve our "Ironing Board" column simply because we're Baptist women. Wilda speaks to us in a way that a man cannot (and I love Dr. Swor.) There's a lot less interesting stuff that could be left off to make way for Wilda. How about it, Dr. Odie? How about leaving Wilda's "Ironing Board" in just for us Baptist women? Please!

Mrs. W. M. Flowers, Jr.
253 E. Northside Drive
Jackson, MS 39206

P.S. I believe other women feel as I do. Why not ask them?

Dear Sir:

Thousands of Mississippi Baptist women are going to be disappointed that Mrs. Fancher's column is going to be dropped from the Baptist Record. It has been one of the widest read parts of the Record. I say you'd do better to keep it and leave out something else.

Marie Spivey
Vicksburg, MS.

A New Year Thought

A few years ago in one of our West Coast cities, a much-loved man reached his 100th birthday. Although being 100 years of age is not unique, one survey having revealed the fact that there are approximately 7,000 people in our nation who are 100 years of age or older, this particular man was unusual: he was inspiringly resilient of mind, youthful in spirit, and almost incredibly useful in his community... its First Citizen, in fact.

Reporters called on this unusual man on his 100th birthday and asked him for the secret of his being so vital in total personality after 100 years of living. His smiling reply was, "I've just kept on growing new wood every year." When the reporters asked for an explanation of the "new wood," he told them of three things which had enabled him to continue growing through the years: 1) continuing to read widely, thereby keeping contact with the best thinking of the past and present; 2) continuing to establish and cultivate new friendships each year, particularly with people much younger than he, thereby keeping a vital contact with the "growing generation"; 3) continuing to develop his religious faith and resources with every passing year, never satisfied with his spiritual insights or achievements, striving constantly to know more about the God to whom he belonged and the implications of that ownership.

1975 is young, and there is sufficient time in this month to make resolutions to follow the centenarian's example. Why not resolve to read one good book each month, in addition to a more faithful reading of the BEST BOOK, God's Word? The resolution, too, to initiate at least one new friendship each month would enrich one's life immeasurably with treasure which money cannot purchase. And, surely, it will be one of life's most intelligent and rewarding resolutions to determine to develop one's Christian faith and resources through study, sharing, service, and even sacrifice.

It is true that out of the mouths of babes great truth is often spoken; but it is true, also, that out of the mouth of that 100 year old "youngster" great truth was spoken. If we, too, would like to be forever young and vibrant we might well start with his three suggestions!

(Published by special arrangement with Dr. Chester Swor, 902 Whitworth Street, Jackson, Mississippi, 39202).

There is no substitute for brains; but silence does pretty well.

Better be thankful to have a door to keep the wolf away from.

The best test of a sermon is depth, not length.

Sin causes the cup of joy to spring a leak.

Prejudice is a loose idea tightly held.

The Baptist Record

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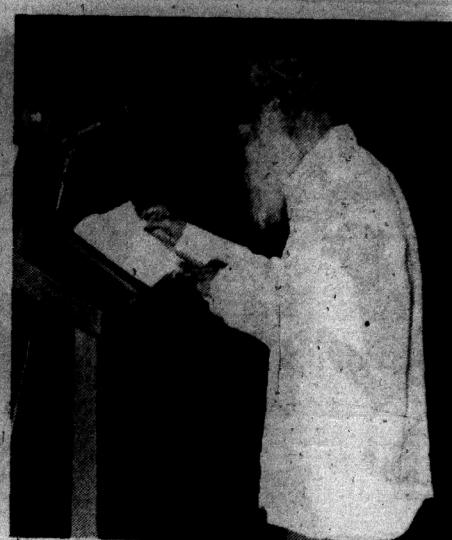
The evangelist with the accordion directed the singing in the native Indian tongue. His name is V. Nataraja Mudaliar.



W. Otis Seal, Calvary, Meridian, preaching; D. S. Spurgeon, interpreting. Showing one aisle of congregation seated on the ground during revival services.



W. Otis Seal, preaching; D. S. Spurgeon, interpreting before the microphones with amplifications that could be heard for five miles.



Reverend S. Davadason, the father of evangelist D. S. Spurgeon, reading the Bible. Since 1932 he has fasted three days per week with only bread and water diet. He has a printing shop that prints religious literature and in crowded facilities he has provided a small room where he and a staff of about 25 assemble for prayer. The only sign on the door that opens to the busy street is one word: "AGONIZING." Mr. Seal says, "You do not have to talk to this Christian or hear him pray to know that you are in the company of a man who walks with the Lord. He carries an expression so radiant until you feel the presence of the Lord. These prayer sessions three days a week are divided and one day is given for the purpose of God saving India's people and that they may know Him personally."

is to be hoped that others will feel God's call to participate in witness there.

Dr. E. J. Daniels and Christ For The World Crusade, Inc., will be having two city-wide campaigns in South India in November/1975.

While India is second in population only to China, and while the door is open, not knowing how long before it will close completely, may God help us to do our very best to walk through this door and win literally millions of these poverty stricken people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord!

(NOTE: The December 8-15 evangelistic crusade in Kringal, South India, was sponsored by Christ for the World, Inc., and Calvary Church, Meridian, and conducted by Rev. W. Otis Seal, pastor of Calvary Church, Meridian, and writer of the above article.)

2,003 Respond As Meridian Pastor Preaches In India

By W. Otis Seal, Pastor

Calvary, Meridian

Dewey Stalvey, John Bos, and I left New York by way of London, Paris, Frankfurt, Kuwait, and Bombay and arrived in Trivandrum Saturday afternoon a little weary, but bounced back real fast for the first service to be held on Sunday evening, in Kringal. The journey of thirty-five miles had to be made by taxi and riding a taxi in India is a nerve-racking experience. The streets and highways are rough, narrow, rugged and filled with people, oxcarts and cows. India is beautiful, but sad. She has brightness, but no joy.

Arrival at the pavilion, constructed for the Crusade, was quite an exciting experience. This pavilion, roofed with palm leaves, was about the size of a football field, well-lighted, and a small choir sang for one hour before the service, with such fervor that it could be heard over the loud-speakers for a distance of five miles. As we approached the site, the streets were com-

pletely filled with people coming from every direction. Of course, all were walking. When the service began, there were roughly ten thousand people seated on the ground. Others were outside the pavilion, in doorways, store windows, and trees. The singing was all done in their native tongue, directed by Evangelist V. Nataraja Mudaliar.

This was my first experience preaching through an interpreter, who was Evangelist D. S. Spurgeon, highly educated and wholly dedicated to the cause of Christ and soul-winning. The service went very well, but the invitation was confusing as I made the first appeal to come for dedication, prayer, salvation and to give their hands to the number of evangelists who were standing at the front. The interpreter quickly informed me that women did not shake hands with men. I altered the situation by asking them to go to the counselors' rooms which were divided, one for men and one for women, at the rear of the rostrum. Less than one hundred responded. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings were similar.

We had to pray earnestly regarding the invitation and practically all day Wednesday was spent in prayer. The appeal Wednesday night was changed by giving individual form cards to be filled out by evangelists, and for the seekers to lift their hands. This was the breaking point in the revival, with 379 registered for salvation. Each evening after that, hundreds were saved and recorded and dealt with personally.

The attendance increased each evening by the thousands. One Sunday afternoon, and evening thirty-five thousand people had assembled. God richly blessed our efforts. Over 2,000 were recorded saved and according to Evangelist D. S. Spurgeon only Heaven knows how many God recorded when we ran out of cards and literally thousands of seekers did not get to be dealt with by personal workers.

This revival was sponsored by one hundred churches of South India. Of course, these churches were nothing to compare with the size of churches here in Mississippi. Evangelist Spurgeon had carefully planned, organized, and promoted every phase of this Crusade through committees, much similar to what we do in our area-wide campaigns here in the South.

I have preached in more than one

hundred revivals in the States and I have never been associated with any that were as thoroughly promoted and carefully planned as this campaign. On the evening when the more than thirty-five thousand crowded into the pavilion and stood for hundreds of feet on the outside, the only people there by automobile was our evangelistic team. The rest had walked, many of them for miles. They prayed, praised God, shouted hallelujah, under the leadership of the singer and responded to the Gospel in a thrilling way never before experienced by us.

India is a nation of more than six-hundred million people. Eighty-five percent Hindu. Thirteen percent Moslem and two percent Christian. The door to India isn't open officially for this type of work. However, ministers may go as visitors and preach in most of India with freedom and encouragement. They classify their church members as Christians, but the devout and faithful they call believers. However, most of these Christians seem to be much more dedicated than the most of our church members in America.

Perhaps you know that ancient tradition says that the Apostle Thomas carried the Gospel to India. A manuscript that goes back to the second century, "The Acts of St. Thomas, the Apostle to India" is the oldest

written record to support this tradition. It is very likely that Christianity in India had its beginning under the Apostle Thomas and has continued its propagation through missionaries, even William Carey, who began his ministry in 1783, and founded in 1818 the Serampore College located twelve miles from Calcutta. So you see that Christianity is not new in this nation with more than 5,000 years of history.

While the people of India are poor, they are cordial, friendly, anxious to please and most polite. They are overwhelmingly responsive to the Gospel. They are highly religious and easily won to a saving knowledge of Jesus.

Any church and pastor who loves the souls of men and is willing to be spent can find his efforts richly rewarded in India. It is not difficult, really it is no problem at all, to get these evangelists to arrange for, promote, and carefully plan a crusade practically anywhere that you would like to go. They have no finances and you have to assume the total responsibility, but this entire campaign, air transportation and all, (with the \$500 honorarium for D. S. Spurgeon efforts) only cost \$4,500.

India today offers one of the greatest evangelistic opportunities that one could ever find and a memorable experience one could never forget. It

Bread For India

By Molly Fairchild



Molly and her dolls

Did you see the bread line in India shown on TV last week? Each person was given a spoonful of cooked rice and a little bag of uncooked rice. Did you put yourself in their shoes and wonder how it would be to have only one meal a day and that meal consist of only a spoonful of rice?

Did you stop and pray and thank God for your three meals a day and between-meal snacks? Did you get a burden and wonder how you could help alleviate the hunger pains of millions of starving children?

Did you know that you can help? If you really want to help read on and I'll share a few things with you about India.

India is only one-third the size of America,

India has three times more people than America.

India is only two percent Christian. India has cattle — but the cattle are worshipped — not eaten.

India has land that could be cultivated and crops grown — but some Indians will not cultivate their land for fear of cutting an earthworm which may be a departed ancestor.

Indians of the Hindu religion kill no animals to eat. Even though the average income is less than \$50 per year — they will pay money to a priest to set off an explosion to wake up their god so he will hear their prayers.

India is starving and dying because of her religion. What can we do? Her doors are closed to missionaries. But God is at work in India. He is working through people like you. People who are burdened and concerned. People who will help send people who are bold enough to go over and preach. Although the doors are officially closed to preachers, many preachers and laymen are going to India as tourists and are being received and heard gladly.

My husband, Al Fairchild, and 14-year-old daughter, Ruth, are in India right now. They will be there for three months. They visit colleges, schools, orphanages, institutions, churches, and conduct open-air services.

These are quotes from a letter received this week:

"We are at the Baptist Hospital in Bangalore. A very beautiful structure. All the Christmas decor makes me long for home and my family at this season. I am very proud of the work we, Southern Baptists, are doing here. There is a wonderful Evangelism Outreach program here. A mission church and six national missions. A correspondence school with a follow-up program with 80,000 enrolled. 1,500 served last year and 200 saved last month. Three thousand new ones are enrolling in correspondence every month. Praise God for what He is doing."

So you see, Southern Baptists are doing something. However, the task is great. The laborers are few. That is why so many concerned evangelists are going to India for short periods of time. That is why my husband Pray for us!

(NOTE: Any church or individual may write to Molly Fairchild at P. O. Box 2, Moselle, MS 39459 or call her at 601-583-3112.)

Seminary Now Open In Mexico City

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

First of a Series

My hands were numb, and my cheeks burned in the raw wind that felt like it came directly from the snows of Popocatepetl. Dr. Pat Carter and I entered a cafe and he ordered enchilada suizas and hot cafe con leche.

"I thought it never got cold here!"

"This is the coldest spell we've had in a long time," he admitted. "Usually the days are pleasant and the nights chilly."

Sitting at the cafe in Satellite City I was told that in 1960 this suburb of Mexico City contained not a living soul. Now it was home to more than a million. "A poor farmer astride a donkey is no longer descriptive of modern Mexico," he said. "This most populous Spanish-speaking country in the world is becoming a nation of city-dwellers."

Not long before, Dr. Charles Bryan of the Foreign Mission Board had written, "There is a powerful story on the background of the move of the Mexican Baptist Seminary from Torreon to Mexico City." Since Dr. Carter is president of that seminary, I thought, "Maybe he will tell me the story."

On Saturday when the jet crossed the wild and black volcanic mountains and glided downward, I could see the gigantic city, cupped in a hollow between the peaks. Twelve million here, 7,000 feet high, on the bed of a long drained lake! I could well believe it, when I saw how many people were at the airport. It seemed that everybody in the world was there — except the one I was searching for.

Bill Gray, Southern Baptist representative in charge of the tourist ministry in Mexico City, had promised to meet my plane. I saw a man who looked like Bill Gray's picture. I asked

him if he were Mr. Gray. Later my friend asked him the same question. He was quite sure his name was not Bill Gray! (It turned out that Mr. Gray simply did not get my last letter.)

"You are going to write about Mexico City?" fellow traveller asked. "Tell about Paseo Reforma. I think it's one of the most handsome boulevards in the world, even if the traffic circles do make you think you're caught in a revolving door. By all means, tell about the folk ballet, and the Aztec pyramids, the cathedral on the Zocalo, and the national palace with its Rivera murals and the bell that announced beginning of the Revolution. Don't forget the Plaza of Santo Domingo where people hire the scribes to write messages on their antique typewriters. Tell about the floating gardens at Xochimilco — about the orchids there and the mariachi bands on the boats. Please don't leave out the Shrine of Guadalupe and the pilgrims walking on their knees — or Chapultepec Castle, or the handicraft shops with embroidered dresses and silver rings."

Mexico City is a variety shop with an endless array of goods. The old and the new crowd together — colonial Spanish construction, modern architecture, Moorish houses with interior patios. Books could be written about this exotic city, but I wanted to know about the Baptist seminary.

Monday morning I was standing in front of the Hotel El Presidente when a white Chevelle drove up. A slender dark-haired man stepped out. His small mustache made him look very much like a Mexican. "I am Pat Carter," he said.

Fifteen miles from downtown, as we approached a high point of ground in Satellite City, Dr. Carter suddenly

pointed to the top of a distant hill: "There it is!" The seminary chapel faced the mountains, across a sea of buildings. "The red tile roof," I thought, "is like a beacon."

"We sat down in Dr. Carter's office and with the aroma of coffee lacing the air he leaned back and said, "Let me tell you a story..."

The Mexican Baptist Seminary was established in 1901 in Torreon. In 1917 it was moved to Saltillo. Later it was in San Antonio and El Paso, and in 1946 went back to Torreon.

"To be honest," the president said, "I personally did not want to move to Mexico City. My family and I liked the slow tempo of life in the farming area of Torreon. It was home to us. Neither did the other missionaries at the school want to move. It was a tremendous upheaval for all of us, but we felt clearly that it was God's will. Now there is a great spirit here, though, and everyone is happy with the new situation."

"There was not enough economic strength in Torreon to support the students. Mexico City would offer more job opportunities for the students and more places for missionary outreach. With the number of people here, the potential is tremendous. There are 8 million within the city limits, 12 million in the area, and 25,000,000 within six hours driving distance. Yet there are only 29 organized Baptist churches in Mexico City."

Dr. Carter, told me that he was born in Texas, graduated from Louisiana College and New Orleans Seminary, and earned his doctorate from Southwestern. At Louisiana College he met Evelyn Winham of Gilliam, La., whom he was to marry. Appointed to the mission field in 1958, he became president of the seminary in 1967.

"Trustees then had finished a three-

year study of the possibility of the seminary's moving. From all the factors involved, I flatly told them, 'No!' The move is not possible!"

A short time later, while he was preaching one Sunday, a sentence from Acts seemed to leap off the page at him: "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision..." He paused, changed his sermon topic in the middle of the address, and then, overcome with emotion, stopped altogether. He knew God was speaking to him. After waiting a few days to consider, he still felt the same — that God wanted the seminary to be moved.

The Mexican Baptist Mission (Southern Baptist missionaries) met with the Mexican Baptist Convention in August, 1967, to ask their opinion on this question. The Mexican Baptist Convention very strongly expressed opposition to the plan to move the school. Since Southern Baptists and American Baptists both had supported missionary endeavors for a century in Mexico, both groups had led their churches to cooperate in a single convention. Now this convention felt that since there was already an American Baptist seminary in Mexico City, the addition of another would be a needless duplication of effort.

Dr. Carter says, "I told the Southern Baptist missionaries that I was still sure that God had spoken. Yet I could not understand why this opposition had come. God could see ahead to the good that would come of it all, but I would not."

"In 1968, three-fourths of the members of the Mission voted to go ahead with our plans, so that year we bought the 2½ acre property. A Mexican movie actor who owned the land at first asked \$25 per square yard. Later, when he learned why we wanted

(Continued On Page 6)



Dr. Pat Carter, president of Mexican Baptist Seminary, inside the school's chapel in Mexico City.



Henry Whitlow, librarian, Mexican Baptist Seminary, prepares to unpack a load of books.



Mario Martinez, Baptist pastor, and student at the Mexican seminary, lives in the dorm in the background.



Six puppeteers at First Church, Greenville, and their director, Mrs. Bunny Peters (center) practice for a presentation. Puppeteers (from left) are Pete Hughes, Kathie Meredith, Steve Altman, Beth Wilson, Brigham Young and Cathy Wilson.

In Greenville

Puppets 'Come Alive'

By Bill Sorrell
Delta Democrat-Times

With wide-eyed fascination, a five-year-old sat in front of a stage listening to animals speak and men who lived thousands of years ago tell stories of floods, angels and giants.

Through an orange-haired mouse he could hear the story of Daniel in the lion's den or Jacob's ladder. A floppy-eared dog named Brano may tell him the story of David and Goliath.

"It's the Bible coming alive through a puppet and a personality, an innovative ministry some Greenville churches are using to teach the gospel."

Carolyn Chandler is puppet director at Greenfield Baptist Church, working with Mike Mahan, Mississippi College student, the church's youth director. Using skits, their information gathered from riddle books, albums and Bible stories projected through sound equipment, the puppets capture children's attention for programs which last from 15 minutes to an hour.

At First Baptist Church, 10 puppets, who call themselves "Free People," use three sets of puppets—Bible characters, animals, people. Large, colorful and sometimes elaborate puppets have evolved in the last few years.

"Christ wants us to use the best techniques available," said Rev. Barry Landrum, pastor of First Baptist. Calling it innovative, Mr. Landrum said the puppet ministry adds "a dimension of freshness and excitement to the gospel. It puts the gospel in terms which children can understand."

Children look at the puppets as storybook friends. "The small ones think they're alive. They want to know how they talk and where they live and if they're asleep or awake. The larger ones know they're not alive but they like them because of the funny things they do. Mrs. Bunny Peters, children's director at First Baptist Church, said children are fascinated by puppets because "they're so human. When people watch puppets it's like people really performing."

"The first thing you know the kids are talking to the puppets," said Fred Rayburn, Royal Ambassador leader and puppet workers at Emmanuel Baptist Church. Involvement comes because puppeteers are being

Accident

Cars come screeching to a halt, fenders interlock, Men jumping quickly from bashed cars let loose words from reddened faces.

Fingers draw into knotty fists that make bloody impressions,

faces, until there is one stead, one seriously wounded. Insurance pays.

—Mark E. Leggett

HIS Singers Present 'What Price Freedom'

The youth ensemble of Carriage Hills Church, Southaven, presented a patriotic musical, "What Price Freedom?" recently at a communitywide gathering for Senator John Stennis. Roddy Simmons, minister of music, directed the group, called HIS Singers. He said, "We would like others to know that the church can play a vital role in the representation of a community and that young people can 'bear a witness' even at a public gathering like this."

The program received a very good review in The Laker Times. D. H. Flippo, writer of the article, said, "I have heard singing that stirred patriotic and spiritual feelings down deep, but never before have I been so privileged, or so moved, as when HIS Singers recalled some of our country's early history. . . . Through song and music they brought the entire audience to the edge of their seats, caused everyone in attendance to get lumps in their throats and goosebumps all over, and in general made you want to grab Old Glory and start waving it and yelling about how good you felt."

The music program expressed appreciation for where we live, our rights and liberties, and our religious and human heritage.

A standing ovation for over five minutes expressed the audience's appreciation.

Today's Youth



"Carpenter's Wood" Launches Career

Packed into a railroad boxcar and holding on for a swift take-off are the 11 members of William Carey College's newest singing group, the "Carpenter's Wood." Uniquely talented, the group performed folk, popular, and sacred music for community, civic and church groups. Damon Goff climbs aboard at far left with the following students seated front row from left: Ronald Whitlock, Argie Smith, Patti Stribling and Randy Whitlock. Rear, from left: Graham Boutwell, Chanda Colletti, Fred Taylor, Carol Jean Myers, Kaye Batson and Gordon Alford. (Photo by Ron Dyal)



Two exhibits at the Neshoba Acteens' missions fair were the ones on Italy, left, and South Korea, right.

Neshoba Acteens Sponsor Missions Fair

Acteens of Neshoba County took part in a missions fair at Spring Creek recently. Rev. Warren Haney, pastor, welcomed over 100 guests; who were shown a mission film.

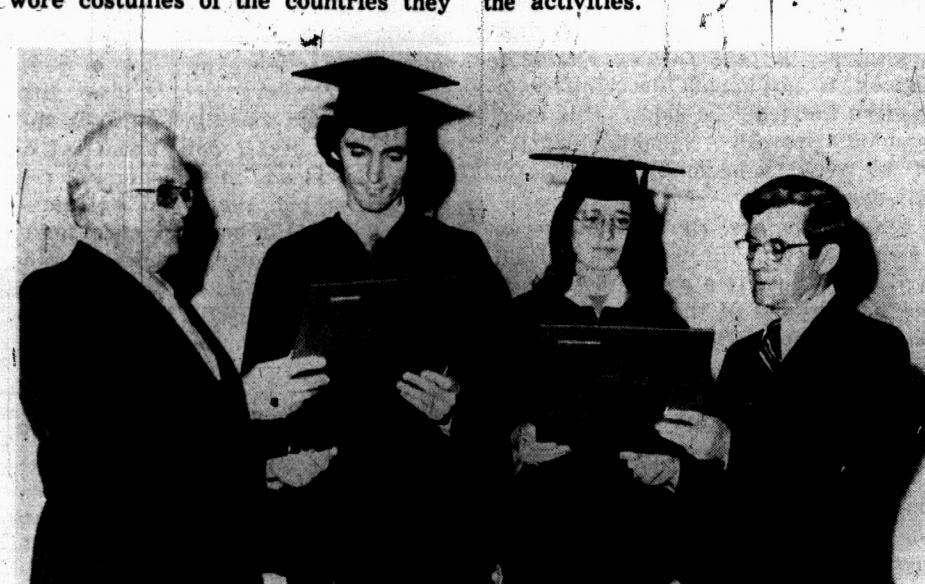
Acteens, dressed as airline stewards, guided guests on an imaginary tour of several countries, telling of mission work, native customs and costumes, and serving food from the countries.

Acteens at the various exhibits wore costumes of the countries they

represented. These Acteens included Bethsada (Korea); North Calvary (Brazil); Old Pearl Valley (Kenya); Trinity (Honduras); Spring Creek (Switzerland); Neshoba (Portugal); and First, Philadelphia (Italy).

The highlight of the fair was an address by Mrs. Jean Jacobs, missionary to Guyana, now on furlough and living at Clarke College.

Mrs. Jackie Haney, Neshoba Association's Acteens director, guided the activities.



Carey Mid-Year Commencement

Personalities pose above following the recent December graduation exercises in Thomas Fine Arts Auditorium on the William Carey campus. Professor Jack Rogers, left, of the department of history and political science, was commencement speaker. With him from left are two honor graduates: Ed Braik, cum laude from Miami, and Linda Frances Hollingsworth of Quitman. President J. Ralph Noonester poses at left. Fifty-five seniors received degrees with nine earning honors as well.

First, Biloxi, Leases Former Liquor Store-Youth Lounge

Two years ago First Baptist Church, Biloxi, looked across the parking lot to a liquor store, a party store for youth, and what amounted to a lounge catering to youth. These establishments were nearer to the church than should have been allowed legally, but nothing could be done to control the noise and parking problems so near the church and on the church property.

"At this point man's extremity became God's opportunity," states Mose Dangerfield, minister of education. Within less than a year all of this property was sold to Continental Insurance Company of Jackson and the businesses were closed.

The church meanwhile was looking for additional space. They had nearly decided to buy 2000 square feet of

mobile classrooms in order to provide space to enlarge their Sunday School organizations when the new owners asked about leasing parking spaces for the new tenants who would be in the several office areas. At this point it became known that about 2000 square feet was available for lease. A coincidence?

The space was leased and is now being used by four departments of fifth and sixth graders. The church will early in 1975 begin construction of a new educational building, but meanwhile the word of God is being taught in space where just months before black lights and psychodelic pictures invited youth to go the world's way.

Rev. Frank Gunn is the Biloxi pastor.

Seminary In Mexico City

(Continued from page 5)
ed it, he came down to \$12 a square yard. Another plot next to his was selling for \$68 per square yard."

"There passed three years of living by faith," Dr. Carter remembers. Tensions grew worse and worse. And then came the miraculous day that the whole picture changed.

On February 5, 1971, 13 missionaries met together for what started as a committee meeting and ended as a prayer meeting. They desperately desired a drastic change that could enable the Mission better to realize its purpose. One man later said, "An unexpected guest was present—the Lord." All felt the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Up until that time the Southern Baptist Mexican Mission and the Mexican Baptist Convention had cooperated, but each had also carried out its own program separately. On that eventful February day the mission voted to completely integrate all their efforts under one program. They would no longer call themselves missionaries, but would be Southern Baptist representatives. They would offer their personnel, their finances, and their resources to the Mexican Baptist Convention to use as they saw best. They felt "that the time for trust and working together was at hand."

"When we told the Mexican Baptist president of our decision, he was incredulous," Dr. Carter said. "He wondered if it surely must be a trick we were playing on him!" But once convinced, he was very happy about the proposal.

Now the final decision concerning the seminary's move was up to the Mexican Baptist Convention—and they gave their approval. A difference in attitudes was soon markedly obvious. Relationships steadily grew better and better. It was clear that the Spirit continued to guide.

In 1970 American Baptists completed their phased withdrawal from Mexico; their seminary had already been merged into a union theological seminary.

Dr. Carter concluded his story, "Over a period of five years, at \$100,000 a year, Lottie Moon Offerings paid for the new campus. Thus, on August 31, 1974, we began our first session in Mexico City, with a record enrollment of 86 students."

His office was on the second floor of the combination dormitory-administration building. "Both single and married students may live in the dorm," he said, "but couples with children cannot."

Outside the building we met Henry Whitlow, the librarian, pushing a cart-load of books, and wearing a cap (in his words) "to keep my bald head warm." The library is named for Marian Sanders, the school's librarian for 18 years who died of leukemia in 1973.

We entered the grey stone chapel through doors decorated with the design of a dove. "Orville and Alma Reid gave all the love offerings from their last furlough to buy these pews," Dr. Carter said. "They traveled over the States in a camper and spoke 550 times." (Though Dr. Carter did not know it, the Reids spent a couple of days on the parking lot of Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson, and spoke there at a Wednesday night prayer service.)

On the lower floor of the chapel we explored five classrooms and a day care nursery. This space doubles for Sunday school for the 200-member church that meets in the chapel. In the foyer, a blackboard note stated in Spanish, "Christ is never late to Sunday School."

"Did you notice the wall between the chapel and the rest of the campus? We built that for a purpose. Legally the church—Protestant or Catholic—can no longer own property in Mexico. Since the government owns the land churches are built on, technically they own the land on which the chapel is built. The wall divides the property so that the government won't claim title to the acreage on the other side. A corporation was formed to have legal ownership of that."

In the open space between the buildings a handsome young man was putting up a volleyball net. "Meet my son-in-law, Mario Martinez. I have three children and he is the husband of my youngest daughter, Carol. Mario is a Baptist pastor. Both he and

Carol are students at the seminary and live here in the dorm."

Since this was Monday, classes would not begin until 6 p.m. Then for the rest of the week there would be classes in two shifts a day, from early morning until late at night.

Each student is involved in weekend missionary work. Antonio and nine others go each weekend to Ixcallan, a new government-sponsored residential development that eventually will have a population of a million. Others give pastoral leadership to twelve churches in Campo Mazahua in the mountains. Pastor Juventino works in the southern section of the city, where he hopes to start ten missions within the next year.

Orville Reid wrote an evangelistic drama that student teams can present in the churches as an unusual means of witness. Then he offered to pay half the student actors' living expenses so they can be free to travel and present the play.

The seminary has a rule that students must support themselves. All now work at churches or missions. In addition, a third of them have secular work. The school is in a middle class area where many of the residents are professional people, such as doctors, lawyers, and business executives. Members of the "church in the chapel" have encouraged the students by helping to find employment for them. For instance, several suggested a student-operated electrical repair operation for industrial buildings.

"Cost of living is high here, too," Dr. Carter explained. "Gasoline is \$1 a gallon and rent for an unfurnished house in Satellite City is at least \$350 a month." Because of this, the Foreign Mission Board has had a condominium built for five families. Eight Southern Baptist families and four Mexican families are on the school's faculty.

"We are moving into our apartment today," he said. "We decided to go to the condominium so that I could meet Mrs. Carter.

"I forgot to tell you we're on the fifth floor, and the elevator is not working yet." For two days the altitude had had me panting for breath and complaining that my legs felt like weights were tied to them. Yet I resolved that if they could climb five flights I could, too. The building was just being completed, and on every floor the workers were still bustling about. The Carters' apartment was still empty, except for one stool in a corner of the living room and a big brass bed in one bedroom. It was worth the climb to meet the gracious Mrs. Carter, and to see the view of mountains from every window.

When we again plunged into the traffic for the return trip downtown, my hands were still cold, but I scarcely noticed. My heart was warm in the knowledge of what God was doing on a hilltop in Satellite City.

S. S. Lesson - - -

(Continued From Page 7)

signs of the times." Do we?

After the Continental Congress had long debated the subject of independence, it appointed a committee, consisting of Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Robert Livingston, and Thomas Jefferson, to draw up a declaration to which they might affix their names. Richard Henry Lee had offered a resolution earlier and many thought he would write the final document.

On the day before the appointment of the committee to write the declaration, Mr. Lee was called home by the illness of his wife. Had it not been for this, doubtless he would have been made chairman of the committee, and would perhaps have written the declaration. As matters were, Jefferson, the youngest member of the committee was asked to write the document. Adams and Franklin made a few alterations in the paper as Mr. Jefferson wrote it, and thus came into being one of the most important papers written by the pen of man.

Jefferson had been appointed as a member of the congress only a short time before, to fill a vacancy caused by a resignation. He remained a member only a few months. But Jefferson was ready for his opportunity.



The Lord Of Life Calls Lazarus From The Grave

John 6:35-51; 11:1-53

By William Fallis

About seventy years after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus, both Jewish and Gentile believers still needed help in understanding the role and work of Jesus. Unbelievers needed to encounter the Jewish Messiah whose message had won many Gentile converts. All needed to be confronted by the sublime claims of Christ—the things he said that made him different from all other men. The Fourth Gospel is the writing that meets all those needs. Quite different from the Synoptic Gospels, it makes

Sunday School Lesson: Life and Work

Seizing A Unique Opportunity

Esther 3:1-5; 4:13-14; 7:1-3; 8:7-8

By Bill Duncan

Did you know that there is a book of the Bible that never mentions God? The book is a dramatic story of God's providential protection of those who fear him. The name of the book is taken from the leading character—Esther. Strenuous criticism among Jews and Gentiles has failed to prove that the book has no lack of recognition or respect for God. The drama is real in life and reflects conviction of His presence and power. As Ezra and Nehemiah show God's care of the returning Jewish remnant, so Esther shows his care of the remnant left in exile. We do not have to mention God's name to see his work.

The story of Esther is well written and interesting. The Divine Hand overruled Ahasuerus's brutality and elevated beautiful Esther to the seat of queen for the deliverance and well-being of the remnant of Israel that lay dispersed in Persia. Mordecai was the uncle and foster-father of Esther. He was always concerned about the woman who had been taken from poverty and made queen of the greatest empire standing at that time. Haman was promoted to fill the highest office in Persia, next to the king himself. Because of his self-centered spirit, everywhere he went he wanted people to bow to him in reverence. Mordecai said he could not because of his religion. When Haman saw that Mordecai refused, he went mad and condemned to death the entire Jewish race to get even with Mordecai.

The crisis called for someone to step forward and offer a solution. The Jews needed an advocate in the palace to see to gain the king's favor.

Mordecai's appeal to Esther transformed the giddy girl into a national heroine. The appeal must be studied.

"For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed; and who knoweth whether thou art not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14).

There was a sense of necessity. Because the Persian empire stretched from India to Ethiopia, the threat of a Jewish massacre brought about an agony for a righteous man. He was calling for relief and deliverance for his people. His heart was greatly touched by the dreadful time—"such a time as this."

Mordecai recognized Esther's temptation to ignore the necessity. The silence of expediency was a tempta-

a distinctive contribution to our understanding of the New Man through whom the living God was seeking all men. It uses seven "signs" (or miracles) to demonstrate the significance of Jesus' life (chaps. 2-11). The last and greatest of these was the raising of Lazarus, the story in today's lesson.

The Lesson Explained

The Death Of A Friend

Verses 17-20

Despite the differences between John and the other Gospels, both Luke and Mark include references to Jesus' friends in Bethany. Theirs was a home in which he felt comfortable and welcome. While he was on the east side of the Jordan, news came of the illness of Lazarus. Putting verses 6 and 17 together shows that Jesus could not have reached Bethany

before Lazarus died. Perhaps Jesus realized this; at any rate, he delayed going to Bethany. Remembering that Jesus' life had been threatened when they were last in Judea, the disciples were reluctant to go. See verse 8 and the courageous declaration of Thomas in verse 16. Nevertheless, Jesus knew that his friends needed him.

When they came near the town, they learned that Lazarus had been dead for four days, and according to custom, burial took place as soon as possible after death. Many friends of the family from Jerusalem were still going through the customary week of mourning. When word came to Martha that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him. Because we have always seen this story from the vantage point of its happy ending, we

have missed its somber mood and the desolate grief of the sisters. Some readers are surprised that "Jesus wept" (v. 35). But it was, indeed, a time when warm memories could not cover the cold sense of loss. Jesus joined with the many people who had loved Lazarus.

The Faith Of A Sister

Verses 21-24

Martha had such confidence in Jesus that she was sure he could have healed Lazarus and prevented his dying. She was disappointed that the messenger had not found the Lord earlier, but she did not stop there. She dared to express what some might call a wild hope: "even now." She knew the compassion of Jesus and the ways he had demonstrated it with unexpected power. So, she let him know her confidence that not even death could withstand God's power working through him. When Jesus gave the reassurance Martha had probably heard from her comforters, she asserted her faith in "the resurrection at the last day," a characteristic teaching of the Pharisees. But almost between the lines we get the impression that she believed that one resurrection could happen earlier if the Master should ask God for that special gift. That was the kind of daring hope which Jesus inspired.

The Claims Of The Lord

Verses 25-27

Then Jesus began to prepare Martha for the meaning of what he intended to do. She did not have to wait until that far off "last day"; believing in him could make the essence of that resurrection a present reality. Through him new life was and is possible for some who were dead in body and for all who are threatened with spiritual death. He was asserting his lordship over life. The crowds had marveled at his miracles and profited from his teaching. Some men had said he might be Elijah, John the Baptist,

risk! Would I not do a work, win a name, and deliver Israel and glorify God!"

Alexander Whyte, who died in 1921, preached a sermon on opportunities and told of Fervidus who was so sorry that he was not a minister. The preacher said to him, "What a reformation he would have worked in his own life by this time, and in his whole parish, if only God had made him a minister! Do not believe yourself, Fervidus. You are deceiving yourself. You hire a cabman to drive you to church, and he sits in the wet street waiting for you, and you never ask him how he manages to live with no sabbath. It is not asked of you, Fervidus, to live and die a martyr; but just to visit your cabman's wife and children and have family worship with them on a sabbath night as you would have done if you had been a minister."

Open your eyes and you will see all around you your circle of opportunities. Your most commonplace, most monotonous, most uninteresting and most everyday circle shines with opportunities, if only you see it aright.

All noble reformations begin in a contemplation of the necessity of the age. John Howard contemplated the prisons of Europe—saw they were not fit for beasts to die in, much less for men to live in. We owe our prison reforms mainly to John Howard's recognition of the grim necessity. Do we appreciate the wants of our time? Christ turned the flame of righteous wrath upon the religionists of His day because they did not "discern the

(Continued On Page 6)

ARE YOU A CONCERNED CHRISTIAN?



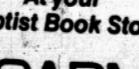
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Devotional

Paul's Penetrating Question

By John Alexander, Director, Stewardship Department, MBCB
 "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent? (Romans 10:14).

Paul's heart longed for the salvation of his nation. He recognized that only through Christ was their salvation possible. To be saved they must call on the name of the Lord. Before they call on him, they must believe in him. In order to believe in him, they must hear about him. They will not hear about him unless there is a preacher sent to them.

In Mississippi Baptist life, 1975 is a year with special emphasis on stewardship and missions. It is also the golden anniversary of the adoption of the Cooperative Program as a plan for world mission support.

Stewardship is what a man does after he says, "I believe." It is the faithful discharge of his inescapable responsibility to God and his fellow man. It is earning, spending, saving, and giving. It is Christian man's love-response to God. Paul pronounced it as a man's way of proving the sincerity of his love. It meets human need. It provides for the work of the church. It makes missions possible.

To meet the world challenge of 1975 demands more than Mississippi Baptists have ever committed themselves to give before. It is a challenge that only God can help us to achieve. When we reach it, the glory goes to him.

Can you conceive of the Christ of the Cross demanding anything less than our best response? He said to the following multitude in Luke 14:33, "So therefore whosoever he be of you that renounceth not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." Christ has the right to request all that a believer owns, even his own life. That is precisely what some have given. Remember Bill Wallace of China?

The rich young ruler wanted what Christ alone could give him, but he wanted it free of cost. Our Lord put his price on it and the young man sadly walked away, taking his possessions with him.

The demands of discipleship are Christ's to make. We have no right to restrict them. In 1975, let each one of us pray, turn from the standards of the world, and make the commitment necessary to advance admirably the kingdom of our Lord.

**Bluebird Top
Choice As
Favorite Bird**

The first popularity poll conducted in the South to find out which is the favorite bird has recently been concluded. The poll was conducted by the PURPLE MARTIN BULLETIN, a newspaper which was begun in March, 1974, by Jerry Nicholson of Union, Miss.

Approximately 20 different birds received votes in the balloting. Throughout the voting the lead was shared by two birds — the cardinal and the bluebird.

Persons interested in subscribing should contact Nicholson at P. O. Box 34, Union, Miss. 38365. He is an active Baptist layman.

top ten birds in the poll are listed for the benefit of those who are interested in knowing how their favorite bird placed.

1. Bluebird; 2. Cardinal; 3. Mockingbird; 4. Purple Martin; 5. Bobwhite Quail; 6. Robin; 7. Bluejay; 8. Red-headed Woodpecker; 9. Hummingbird; 9. Brown Thrasher; 10. Oriole. (tie).

The PURPLE MARTIN BULLETIN is a non-profit hobby of Nicholson's and is intended solely for the enjoyment of the readers. It is designed to help familiarize the readers with wild birds and animals. The BULLETIN now has several contributors who write regularly for the paper. Original articles are gladly accepted for printing; and also pictures, preferably black and white.

The Parkway Church was organized on November 18, 1944. At the time the name of the church was

McArthur Street Church.

Churches Merge In Pascagoula

Two churches in Jackson County have merged. They are McArthur Street Church and Parkway Church, both of Pascagoula. Rev. Kenna Byrd, pastor of McArthur Street, now serves as pastor for the enlarged church.

The facilities of the Parkway will be the home for the unified congregation.

The first regular Sunday service after the vote to merge was held on Sept. 22, 1974. New officers and teachers were able to begin the new year on Oct. 1, as they had already been voted on by the church. The present membership is about 550 members," says Pastor Byrd.

The reason for the merger of the two churches was that McArthur was seeking additional room, and Parkway was seeking leadership.

Rev. Kenna Byrd, pastor of Parkway, served McArthur Street Church from August 1968 until the merger of the churches.

He at this time is moderator of the Jackson Association, vice-president of the pastor's conference and chairman of the Building Committee for the association camp site.

He is married to Jewell Freeman Byrd of Hattiesburg and has 4 children: Mrs. Ronald Helms of Pascagoula, Kenna Jr., Gregory, and Pamela.

"The Gospel Road" To Be Shown In H'Burg

"The Gospel Road" is a film to be shown on Sunday, January 26 at Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg, at 7 p.m.

"The Gospel Road," distributed by World Wide Pictures, was conceived and produced by Johnny Cash and his wife, June Carter Cash, whose desire was to tell the story of Jesus Christ in a realistic and meaningful way.

Spring Hill Calls Pastor

Rev. William Gullick has accepted the pastorate at Spring Hill Church in Marshall Association. He succeeds Rev. C. V. Thompson, pastor there for the past six years.

Mr. Gullick is a senior at Blue Mountain College and has been a pastor for two years. His home is in Myrtle, where he has been living with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Gullick. He is moving to the church field.

Awarded Doctorate
 One of four William Carey College alumni receiving graduate degrees from New Orleans Seminary in December was awarded the doctorate. The other three received master's degree.



Ronald Arthur Hazlett, a 1969 graduate of William Carey, was awarded the doctor of ministry degree. His project was entitled "The Utilization of People Search - Survey in a Ministry of Outreach to Jensen Beach, Florida." He is currently serving as pastor of First Church, Jensen Beach.

Earning master's degrees were Homer E. Estess, master of divinity; George F. Hendry Jr., master of divinity; and Douglas R. Turner, master of religious education.

Robert Gandy of Jackson was selected to receive Governor Bill Waller's Outstanding Mississippian Award for 1974. In September, 1974, Mr. Gandy, long time chairman and member of the Board of Trustees for the Deaf and Blind Schools, retired. Mr. Gandy had served on this Board for 34 years, having begun that service May 14, 1940.

Dr. Malcolm Tolbert, chairman of the biblical studies division at New Orleans Seminary, is the author of "Die Hauptinteressen des Evangelisten Lukas," an article included in the new German publication Das Lukas-Evangelium. Among contributors to the Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft publication, which was edited by Georg Braumann, are world-famous New Testament scholars Hans Conzelmann, Ernst Lohmeyer, Paul Minear, Edward Lohse, and Ernest Kaesemann.

Desoto Church (Clark) has licensed David Manasco to its gospel ministry. He may be contacted by phone (776-2408) or by mail (Rt. 2: Shubuta, Miss. 39360) for supply or pastorate where needed.

Mrs. Mary Lou Polk of Tulsa, Okla., the mother of Vernon Polk of Grenada, has died. Vernon Polk is the minister of music at First Church, Grenada. Mrs. Polk was buried in Oklahoma.

Donna Keyes, missionary journeyman to Brazil, may be addressed at Caixa 16, 44100 Feira de Santana, Bahia, Brazil. A Mississippian, she was born in Jackson.



Center Grove Church, Lauderdale County, dedicated their new building Sunday, January 5.

Center Grove Church was organized August 26, 1885. A Democrat by the name of Grover Cleveland was president of the U.S.A. The Center Grove community had a United States Post Office and was known as Celia, Mississippi. Much of the land in the area was owned by the railroad and was selling for twenty five cents an acre.

The first church was a log building. The front row of seats was very near to the platform from which the preacher preached. The children were made to sit on the front row so they

could be watched by preacher and parents.

The first building was on land owned by the railroad. Floyd and Anne Hagwood later purchased the land and on the 20th day of May 1911 donated the land to the church.

The first congregation sang out of old Sacred Harp Song books, led by George Hughes, the first song leader.

They had no Organ or piano. Years later when the second building was constructed, the church then purchased an organ. The second building served the people until November, 1974.

The third building, dedicated Jan. 5, was first used for worship Sunday, December 1, 1974.

The early history of the church was reconstructed with the help of Mrs. Eva Hughes Byrd, who attended Center Grove in the old Log building. Miss Ruby Jay also was able to give much information about the early history of the church.

Construction was started in May 1973 and completed in December 1974 at a cost of approximately \$38,000. The church was built by the men and women of the church, under the direction of Building Committee Chairman, Grady E. Butler.

The church has a seating capacity of two hundred and fifty. It has central heat and air. The sanctuary is fully carpeted, with the remainder of floor space having tile.

The new church has five new classrooms and a pastor's study. There is a fellowship hall with a fully equipped kitchen. It also has a baptistry.

Rev. Jake C. Williams is the pastor. Interim pastors during the building program were Rev. Jesse Steel and Rev. Malcolm Lewis.

Building Committee: Grady E. Butler, chairman; A. Lamar Catlett, E. J. Chatham, Roy Lee Moffett, H. C. Neal Jr., M. J. Pogue, G. Gerald Roberson,

1st, Philadelphia Overpledges Budget In A Single Day

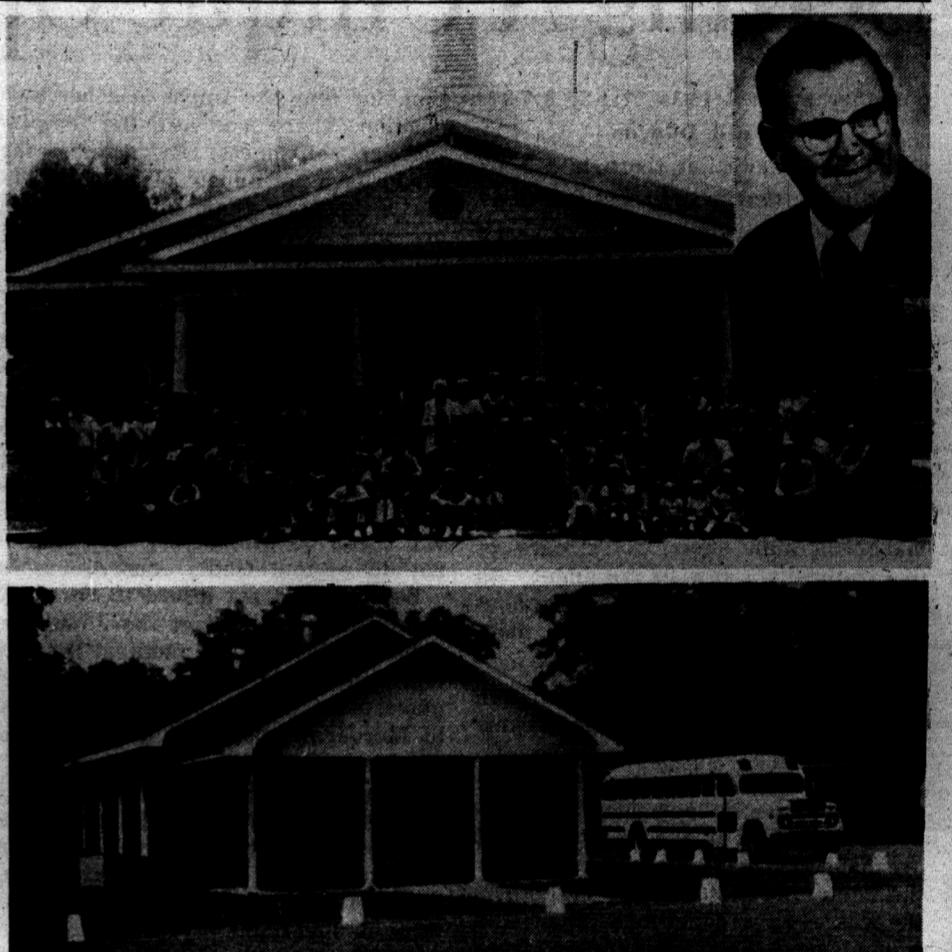
First Church, Philadelphia, J. Ray Grissett, pastor, recently oversubscribed its annual budget for the fourth consecutive year.

The church used a modified form of the Forward Program with "SHARE HIS LOVE" as the theme. For the first time in many years there was a pledge march during Sunday School.

The \$134,000 budget was pledged in one day. At the evening service when announcement was made that the budget was some \$40 short of being pledged, Steering Committee Chairman Barney Nowell took the floor and asked 40 persons to pledge with him to give an extra dollar if the balance did not come in.

On Monday when Everett Cole, Jr., tally chairman, re-tabulated pledging results, it was found that the pledging had gone over the top without the extra \$40.

The budget includes the "Restore Gulfshore" Campaign and \$15,000 for the Cooperative Program.



Top photo: Parkway, Pascagoula, first service after the merger. Center: McArthur Street Church's building. Insert: Rev. Kenna Byrd, pastor at Parkway.

Off The Record

Joe Kelly was a kind mailman. A poor old lady on his route had a son, Jimmy, who had run away to Chicago. Every time Joe would come with the mail, she would meet him, tears streaming down her face. "Oh, Mr. Kelly! Do you have a letter from Jimmy?"

And always, Joe would have to say, "Sorry, Mrs. Jones."

Then Joe had an idea. One evening he wrote a letter, enclosing it in another envelope, and addressing it to the postmaster in Chicago. It would be cancelled there, and mailed to Mrs. Jones.

The letter came through, and Joe delivered it to a joyous mother. It read:

Dear Mom:

Please forgive me not writing. I hope you are well. I have been very successful. Enclosed is \$20 I know you can use.

Your loving son, Jimmy.

Next day when Joe came around, Mrs. Jones had a letter to Jimmy all ready for him. As soon as he was out of her sight, he eagerly read what she had written:

Dear Son:

I am so glad to hear from you: Thanks for the money, but if you send any more, please send a money order. The mailman on our route looks like a crook.—

A law in the time of Columbus forbade mariners from eating garlic for fear of affecting the compass and throwing the ship off course.

A neighbor called to him and said, "Hey, there, Henry, why are you talking to yourself?"

"First," replied the farmer, "I like to hear a smart man talk, and next, I like to talk to a smart man."— Sunshine Mag.

Enters Full-Time Evangelism

Rev. Perry D. Neal, pastor of Eastdale Church, Montgomery, Alabama, announces that he is this month entering full-time evangelism. Mr. Neal formerly served in Mississippi, as minister of activities (youth and evangelism) at First Church, Biloxi, and as pastor of First Church, Bay St. Louis.

Born in Moncks Corner, Alabama, in 1941, he received the B. A. degree from Samford University in 1967 and the Master of Theology degree from New Orleans Seminary in 1970.

While in Mississippi, he was chairman of the Gulf Coast Association's Finance Committee and was program chairman for the Gulf Coast Pastors' Conference. Also, he wrote a weekly column for the Sea Coast Echo, Bay St. Louis newspaper.

Under his leadership at Bay St. Louis, there were 380 additions, with 218 by baptism. In the 22 months he has been at Eastdale, Montgomery, there have been 587 additions with 263 for baptism. He has preached in revivals in at least six states.

Mr. Neal was selected as one of the

"Outstanding Young Men of America" for 1972. He is in 18th year of ministry.

He is married to the former Marcelline Spivey of Montgomery. They live at 4418 Wares Ferry Road, Montgomery, Alabama 36109 (phone 205-279-8710).

Mr. Neal and Tom Larrimore, music evangelist of Jackson, plan to work together as a team. Both plan to continue to work in some revivals separately, as well as in some together.